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THE STATISTICAL ACCOUNT OF SCOTLAND.

DRAWN UP FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS OF THE *MINISTERS* OF THE DIFFERENT PARISHES.

BY SIR JOHN SINCLAIR, BART.

VOLUME SIXTEENTH.

"*Ad consilium de republica dandum, caput est nosse rempublicam.*"
CICERO, de Orat. lib. ii.

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M,DCC,XCV.


GEORGIUS III REX
BRITISH MUSEUM

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3	Caſtletown,	1507	1418	——	89	60
4	Forgan, -	751	875	124	——	88
5	Killearn, -	957	973	16	——	100
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			40985	952		
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No.	Name,	Population in 1715.	In 1794.	Increase.	Dec.	Page.
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2	Herict,	2[illegible]9	300	91	——	90
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4	Forgun,	7[illegible]4	875	134	——	83
5	Killdara,	0[illegible]9	973	10	——	100
6	Newburn,	4[illegible]8	456	[illegible]	——	210
7	Portree,	1[illegible]4	1[illegible]6	502	——	748
8	Aghat,	3[illegible]4	3665	[illegible]	——	103
9	Kille and Nevay,	0[illegible]5	650	5	——	212
10	Strath,	0[illegible]3	1[illegible]9	[illegible]	——	574
11	Dowden,	6[illegible]2	865	188	——	250
12	Aultruther Kalter,	1[illegible]0	1[illegible]0	——	——	[illegible]
13	Holy and Crimbly,	6[illegible]0	1[illegible]0	——	——	276
14	Welfray,	1[illegible]0	1[illegible]9	339	——	[illegible]
15	Clenelg,	1[illegible]0	2[illegible]6	950	——	365
16	Whitborn,	1[illegible]0	1[illegible]5	500	——	275
17	Bothwell,	1[illegible]4	2[illegible]7	1[illegible]0	——	[illegible]
18	Radford,	1[illegible]3	1[illegible]2	——	——	[illegible]
19	Whitton and Hilton,	[illegible]90	[illegible]90	[illegible]24	——	[illegible]
20	Peterculter,	[illegible]75	[illegible]0[illegible]	[illegible]17	——	[illegible]
21	Sandwick and Stromness,	[illegible]0[illegible]	[illegible]0[illegible]	[illegible]2	——	[illegible]
22	Deer,	[illegible]8[illegible]	[illegible]2[illegible]	[illegible]41	——	[illegible]
23	Jedforrest,	[illegible]05	[illegible]29	[illegible]24	——	[illegible]
24	Temple,	[illegible]0[illegible]	[illegible]0[illegible]	——	——	[illegible]
25	Blenarile,	[illegible]80	[illegible]0[illegible]	——	——	[illegible]
26	Wemyss,	[illegible]34[illegible]	[illegible]0[illegible]	——	——	[illegible]
27	Slains,	[illegible]5[illegible]	[illegible]5[illegible]	[illegible]18	——	[illegible]
28	Peterhead,	[illegible]5[illegible]	[illegible]8[illegible]	[illegible]3	——	[illegible]
29	Lochmaben,	[illegible]4[illegible]	[illegible]8[illegible]	[illegible]4	——	[illegible]
30	Fearnay,	[illegible]4[illegible]	[illegible]4[illegible]	2	——	[illegible]
	Totals,	[illegible]09[illegible]	[illegible]3[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	Increase in 1794,	[illegible]	[illegible]3[illegible]	[illegible]		

STATISTICAL ACCOUNT

OF

SCOTLAND.

PART XVI.

NUMBER I.

PARISH OF INVERESK,

(COUNTY OF MID-LOTHIAN, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEEDDALE, PRESBYTERY OF DALKEITH.)

By the Rev. Dr ALEXANDER CARLYLE, *Miniſter.*

Names, Situation, River, Hill, &c.

THE Gaelic derivation of *Inver*, in ſome of the Statiſtical Accounts, makes it ſignify the ſame as *Inner*, a field fit for tillage. In the low country of Scotland, it ſeems rather to ſignify, *The Mouth of a River*, or *The Confluence of two Rivers*; and if Inveresk is not of Celtic original, there is no other name of any place in the pariſh, that has the leaſt affinity to that language. Agreeably to this derivation, the name of INVERESK marks its ſituation on the lower part of the river *Eſk*, which falls in two ſtreams from the moun-

tains of Morſit on the S. and Pentland on the N. that bound the great vale of Mid-Lothian, meet in Dalkeith Park near the confines of this pariſh, and flow together through a beautiful vale to the ſea; within half a mile of which, the river is interrupted in its courſe, by the hill where the church and village of Invereſk ſtand. Round this hill the ſtream circulates to the W., when turning the Point, and running between Muſſelburgh and Fiſherrow, in the direction of N. E., it falls into the ſea a quarter of a mile below theſe towns. *Muſſelburgh* has derived its name from an extenſive muſcle bank, which lies in the ſea below the town, and was probably the cauſe of its early population; as, even at this day, it affords a great relief to the poorer inhabitants in times of ſcarcity, and at all times ſupplies the tables of the rich with a delicate variety. This pariſh lies in a ſemicircular form, on the bottom of the deepeſt bay on the S. ſide of the frith of Forth, the ſtring of the bow extending two miles and a half, from Magdalene Bridge on the W. to Ravenſhaw Burn on the E., which divides the county of Edinburgh, or Mid-Lothian, from that of Eaſt Lothian. The bow itſelf, taking the middle of the ſtring as a centre, reaches nearly to the ſame diſtance, of $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the ſea.

Proſpects, &c.—The ſituation of this pariſh is one of the moſt beautiful in Scotland. The low part of it is only a few feet above the level of the ſea; between which, and the towns of Muſſelburgh and Fiſherrow, lie very ſpacious and pleaſant links, thoſe beautiful downs on the ſea-ſhore, almoſt peculiar to Scotland, which furniſh a field for that favourite exerciſe of the inhabitants, the golf, and dry walks at all ſeaſons of the year. Behind this flat or plain, through which the river runs into the ſea, and which is about

half

half a mile in breadth, there is a fine riſing ground, which begins at the eaſtern extremity of the pariſh, and extends in a ſwelling curve to the hill of Invereſk, where ſtand the village of that name, and the church of St Michael's. The S. ſide of this hill takes alſo the form of a creſcent, ſo that all the houſes on that ſide have a full view of the woods of Dalkeith Park, and the extenſive country to the ſouth, as well as of the haugh and river, and their own ſloping gardens.

Climate, &c.—This ſituation makes the village not only agreeable, but healthy, and obtained for it of old the name of the *Montpellier* of Scotland. The ſoil of the plain, eſpecially about Muſſelburgh, being remarkably dry, and a conſtant brilliancy and freſhneſs flowing from the river and the adjacent ſea, there is a ſoftneſs and amenity in the air through the whole ſeaſon, that is ſeldom to be met with in any other ſituation in this northern climate. Beyond the village of Invereſk, to the S. E., lie extenſive and well cultivated fields, bounded at the diſtance of two miles, by the hills of Falſide and Carberry, which terminate a long fertile ridge, that begins to riſe 5 or 6 miles to the eaſtward; and the latter of which is the higheſt ground in this pariſh, being 540 feet above the level of the ſea. To the S. and W. of the river, lie fertile fields equally well cultivated, terminated by the extenſive park and domain of Dalkeith; a conſiderable part of which, (*viz.* what was formerly *Smeaton* and *Caſtle-ſteads*), lies in this pariſh.

Antiquities.—The Romans did not fail to obſerve the fortunate ſituation of the hill of Invereſk, which, though not more than 50 feet above the level of the ſea, commands an extenſive view, not only of the adjacent country, but of the ſpacious baſon of the Frith, which is there about 18 miles

miles broad, and of the coaſt of Fife, from Burntiſland to the mouth of the Frith. Hiſtory aſſures us, that they had a ſtation here, and repeated diſcoveries * point out the ſpot where

* At different times Roman coins, and once an altar, with this inſcription, *Apollini Granio*, have been found in levelling the adjacent grounds. But if there had remained any doubt, concerning the ſituation of this Roman fort, it was fully cleared up a few years ago, when the proprietor of the villa had occaſion to take two or three feet off the ſurface of his parterre, when there were diſcovered the floors and foundations of various buildings. The owner being abſent, attending his duty in Parliament, the workmen were prevailed upon, by the author of this account, to clear the earth carefully away from one of them, and to leave the ruins ſtanding for ſome time, for the inſpection of the curious. It was found to be a Roman bath of two rooms. The ſuperſtructure had been thrown down and removed, but the floor remained entire, and about 6 inches high of the wall of the ſmalleſt room, which was 9 feet long, and 4½ wide. There was a communication through the partition wall for water, by an earthen pipe. The other room was 15 feet by 9. The floors of theſe, and of the other rooms, were covered with tarras uniformly laid on, about two inches thick. Below this coat there was a coarſer ſort of lime and gravel five inches deep, laid upon unſhapely and unjointed flags. This floor ſtood on pillars two feet high, ſome of ſtone, and ſome of circular bricks. The earth had been removed to come to a ſolid foundation, on which to erect the pillars. Under the tarras of the ſmalleſt room there was a coarſer tarras, fully 10 inches thick, which ſeemed intended to ſuſtain or bear a more conſiderable fire under it, than the *Hypocauſtum* of the largeſt room. There appeared to have been large fires under it, as the pillars were injured by them, and there was found a quantity of charcoal in perfect preſervation.

The *Hypocauſtum* of the larger room, or ſpace under the tarras'd floor, was filled with earth, and with flews made of clay, which were laid every where between the rows of pillars, and were a little diſcoloured with ſmoke; a ſmaller degree of heat having been conveyed through them, than through thoſe under the other room. But theſe contrivances under the floors ſeem only to have been intended to preſerve heat in the water, which had been carried warm from a kettle, built up or hung on brick work, on one ſide of the largeſt room. This brick work was much injured by ſtrong fires, and was four feet ſquare.

This

where the *Prætorium* was built. It was undoubtedly on the ſummit of the hill where the church now ſtands, and included that beautiful villa that lies to the eaſtward of it; a hollow road, which, till about 35 years ago, paſſed within three yards of that villa, having moſt likely been the foſſé of the prætorium. It is now included in the garden and pleaſure ground. The church, of which the antiquity is not known, and which is called *St Michael's of Invereſk*, has probably been built out of the ruins of that ancient Roman edifice.—A building of high antiquity was ſituated at the eaſt end of Muſſelburgh, which belonged to the abbacy of Dunfermline. It was called the *Chapel of Loretto*. There are no remains of it now but a ſmall cell, about 12 feet by 10, covered by a mount, in the garden of the gentleman who is now in poſſeſſion of the villa called *Loretto*. Soon after the Reformation, about the year 1590, the tolbooth of Muſſelburgh was built out of the ruins of this

This ſeems to have been a kind of building uſed by the Romans only for temporary uſe. The cement, or tarras, ſufficiently proves by whom it was made, as the Roman compoſition of that kind is ſuperior to any of later ages. It is remarkable, that the tarras of the grand ſewers under the city of Rome is of the ſame kind; and it is related by travellers, that in the very ancient buildings in the kingdom of Bengal, the very ſame ſort has been uſed. Two medals were found among the ruins, now in the poſſeſſion of Robert Colt, Eſq; owner of the villa; one of gold, much defaced, which is ſuppoſed to be of Trajan; another of copper, on which the inſcription is clear, *Diva Fauſtina*. There are traditional accounts, that in digging foundations of houſes in Fiſherrow, there have been found ſimilar ruins of *Hypocauſta*, which afford a proof, that this ſtation was not merely military, but was a *Colonia Romana* or *Municipium*; that they had many houſes and buildings near the ſea, as well as their prætorium at Invereſk; and that one of their principal harbours on this ſide of the Frith was at Fiſherrow. From that harbour, ſituated where there is one at preſent, there was a Roman cauſeway, (the traces of which remained within the memory of ſome ſtill living), which led to their camp at Sheriff hall, three miles S. W. and onwards to Borthwick.

this chapel, which muſt have been of conſiderable dimenſions. The old ſteps of the ſtair, which was repaired not long ſince, were the baſes of the pillars of this chapel, according to the report of maſons ſtill living. This is ſaid to have been the firſt religious houſe in Scotland, whoſe ruins were applied to an unhallowed uſe*, for which the good people of Muſſelburgh are ſaid to have been *annually excommunicated*, till very lately, at Rome.

Hiſtory aſſures us, that RANDOLPH Earl of Murray died in Muſſelburgh of the ſtone, in July 1332, and tradition points out the houſe where he died, near the eaſt end of the town, on the ſouth ſide. It is a vaulted houſe, of two rooms on the ground floor; the rooms are about 14 feet ſquare, and the arch 8 feet high, with a paſſage between them 6 feet wide. This might well have been the beſt houſe in the town 460 years ago †. Tradition alſo ſays, that the inhabitants having formed a guard round the houſe, during the illneſs of this great man, they found ſuch favour with the Earl of Mar, the ſucceeding regent, that he granted, or obtained for them, their firſt charter.

In this pariſh lies the field of the *battle of Pinkie* ‡, which was fought in the year 1547, when Queen Mary was an infant, with ſuch diſadvantage to the Scots.

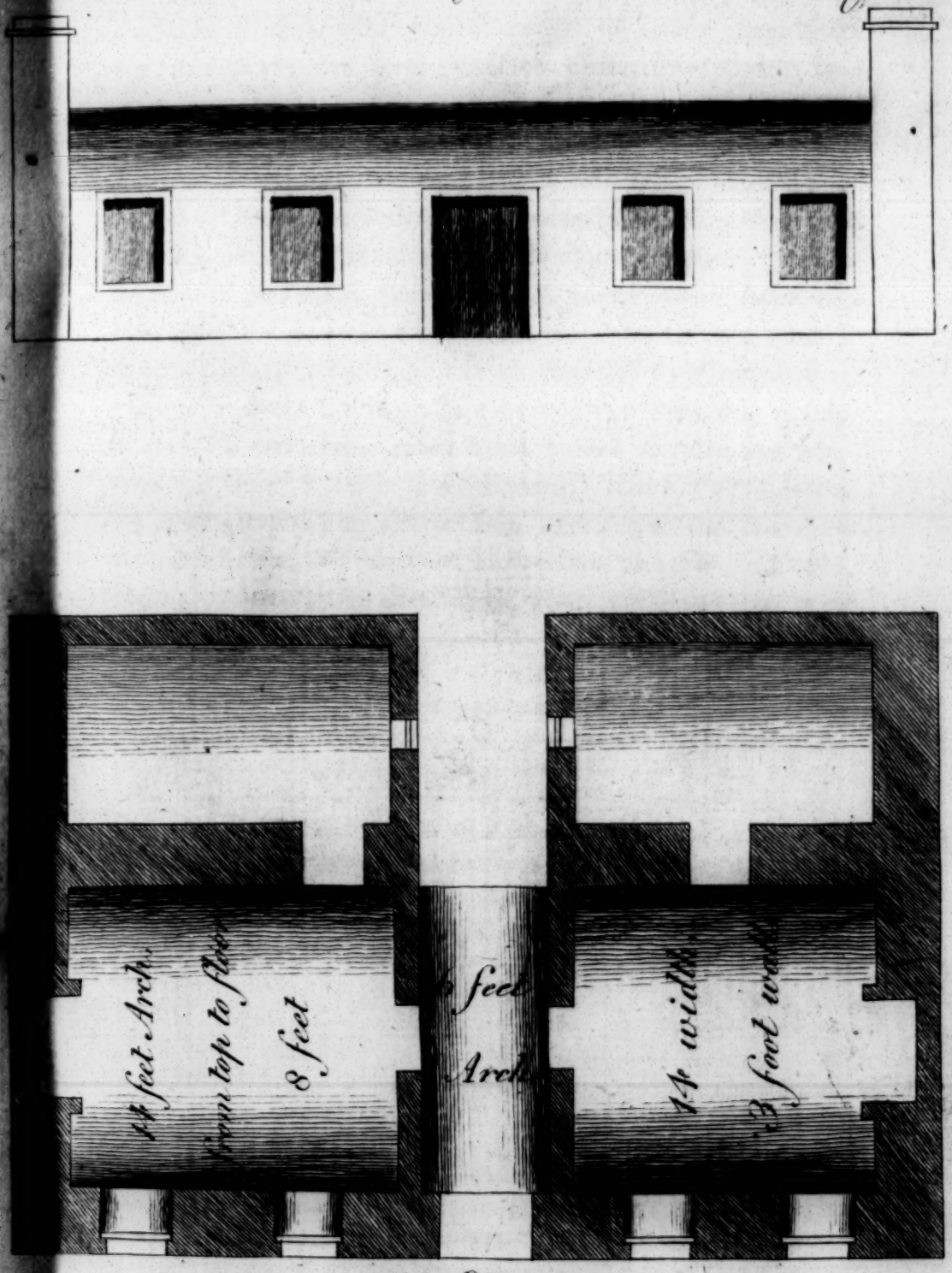
Carberry

* Till about 30 years ago there was a middle row of houſes eaſtward from the Tolbooth, one of which had been a chapel, called *Chapel Gavel*. There were various other old chapels in different ſituations; one in a garden in the weſt end of Market-gate, and one in New Hailes grounds, called *Magdalene Chapel*, near to Magdalene Bridge, of which there are now no remains; beſides an alms-houſe in Market-gate, which is now a dwelling-houſe.

† A drawing of it is ſubjoined.

‡ PATON's *Journal*, of which there is a copy in the Advocates Library, gives a very particular account of this battle, and points out the ſtate of this

A Plan of the House near the east end of Musselburgh in which RANDOLPH EARL of MURRAY Died July 1332



For the 16.th Vol. of SIR JOHN SINCLAIR'S Statistical Account of SCOTLAND.

Carberry Hill.—Juſt over the field of battle there is a hill, which was ſtill more fatal to Queen Mary, and has been known ever ſince by the name of the *Queen's Seat*. It is the top of the hill of Carberry, where that unfortunate Princeſs ſat on a ſtone, and held a conference with Kirkcaldy of Grange, who had been commiſſioned for that purpoſe by the confederate Lords. During this parley, Bothwell, who had taken leave of the Queen for the laſt time, rode off the field to Dunbar. As ſoon as he was out of danger, Mary ſuffered herſelf to be led by Kirkcaldy to Morton and the Lords, who received her with due marks of reſpect, and ample promiſes of future loyalty and obedience. The ſequel is well known. From that hour ſhe was deprived of liberty for life, except for the few days that intervened, between her eſcape from Lochleven Caſtle, and her ſurrender to Elizabeth, after the fatal battle of Langſide.

this pariſh at the time. It was fought on the field that lies between the village of Inveresk and Walliford, and Carberry; and was brought on by the uſual impetuoſity of the Scots, who would not wait till the Engliſh army, who were beginning to run ſhort of proviſions, had been obliged to return home. The Scottiſh army were encamped on that large field weſt of the Eſk, which went by the name of Edminſtone Edge; the Engliſh lay at the places now called Drummore and Walliford. As the Scots paſſed the bridge of Muſſelburgh, and marched to the field up the hill of Inveresk, on the weſt ſide of the church, there being then no village, and only two ſhepherds houſes on that hill, they were annoyed by cannon ſhot from the Engliſh gallies in the bay; inſomuch, that the Lord Graham, eldeſt ſon of the firſt Earl of Montroſe, was killed on the bridge, with many of his followers. To have croſſed the river at any other place, would have been ſtill more dangerous, as there was then a thick wood on the banks of it, all the way to Dalkeith. After paſſing the church of Inveresk, they muſt have been covered from the ſhot, as the ground ſlopes from thence down to the *How Mire*, (in thoſe days a moraſs, though now drained and cultivated), from whence it riſes gently to the bottom of the hills of Carberry and Falſide. On this gentle riſing lay the field of action.

Langſide. The bloody field of Pinkie under her eye, might have put this ill-fated Queen on her guard. But unfit for the rugged times in which ſhe lived, ſhe had the misfortune to be at once facile and obſtinate. The late proprietor of Carberry, John Fullarton, Eſq; has marked this ſpot to poſterity by planting a copſe-wood upon it.

Bridge.—The bridge of Muſſelburgh, over which the Scottiſh army marched on the day of the battle of Pinkie, is of great, but unknown antiquity. It is moſt likely, that it is a work of the Romans, as they certainly had many houſes in what is now called Fiſherrow, as well as their haven for ſhipping; and could not poſſibly ſuffer their colony to be divided, and their harbour ſeparated from their fort by a river, that is frequently unfordable for many days together. This bridge has many marks of antiquity; and as ſeveral parts of the arches approach nearly to a ſtraight line, the frame, or coom, on which it was raiſed, muſt have ſunk while it was building. The arches are 50 feet wide, their ſpring only 10 feet; whoever built it muſt have intended, to place the approaches to it out of the reach of the tide; which is the caſe to this day, and demonſtrates that the coaſt is not materially changed, or that the ſea has not gained on the land ſince that period, as the ſite of the harbour proves that it has not receded from it.

Pinkie Houſe.—Pinkie Houſe, though not very ancient, (as it was built by Alexander Seton, firſt Earl of Dunfermline, in the year 1622), deſerves to be mentioned, becauſe it was a vulgar notion for many years, that there were as many doors and windows in it, as there are days in the year. This has been copied into many of the tours and travels into Scotland, though without foundation; and ſerves only to prove, that the houſe of Pinkie, though half

the deſign has only been executed, was one of the firſt houſes of any degree of magnitude, in this part of the country, as it excited the wonder of the common people. The inſcription on the front of this houſe *, now hid by a covered way, points out the humbleneſs of the building, or the pride of its founder. The gallery is 80 feet long, the cieling of which is covered with emblematical paintings and inſcriptions †.

Routing Well.—The *Routing Well* at Monktoun, that is ſaid always to *predict* a ſtorm, is a wonder of the ſame nature as the preceding. The caſe is, that this well being dug many fathoms deep, through a rock, in order to get below the ſtrata of coal that abound in the field, it communicates through the coal rooms that are wrought, with other ſhafts; which occaſions a rumbling noiſe, that does not *precede*, but accompanies a high wind.

Soil, Surface, Extent, &c.—The ſoil of this pariſh varies according to its diſtance from the ſea. The flat ground round Muſſelburgh and Fiſherrow is ſandy, but, having been for ages in a high ſtate of cultivation for gardens and ſmall fields, is abundantly fertile. The fields above Invereſk, on both ſides of the river, are of a better quality, and may ſoon

* Dominus Alexander Setonius hanc domum ædificavit, non ad animi, ſed fortunarum et agelli modum, 1613.

† On the forfeiture of the family in 1688, this houſe and barony were purchaſed by the family of Tweeddale, from whom, in the year 1778, it was bought by Sir Archibald Hope of Craighall, Bart. and is now a more comfortable dwelling-houſe than ever. An incloſure of 20 acres, covered with fine old trees, contributes much to its beauty; and the ſhelter they afford, together with the aptitude of the ſoil, form one of the fineſt fruit gardens in the neighbourhood.

be made as fertile as any in the kingdom. Thoſe which riſe towards the hill on the S. E., and which run into Newton pariſh on the S. W., partake more of a clay ſoil, and carry great crops of grain, eſpecially wheat, when they are under proper management. There are 3571 acres of land in the pariſh, which, at the uſual computation of 45 acres for a plough-gate, makes about 80 plough-gates.

Rent and Proprietors.—The real rental of the pariſh is about L. 6500; that of the towns and villages, including the mills of Muſſelburgh, ſalt-works, *&c.* and the houſes of the heritors, as made out to fix an aſſeſſment for the poor, amounts to L. 5000; total about L. 11,500. The great proprietors are 8 in number; *viz.* 1*ſt*, the Duke of Buccleugh, who is patron of the pariſh, as poſſeſſing the lordſhip of Invereſk, formerly belonging to Sir Robert Dickſon of Carberry, who ſold it to the Ducheſs of Monmouth about the beginning of this century. His Grace holds alſo the lands of Smeaton and Caſtleſteads, and likewiſe the lordſhip of Muſſelburgh in this pariſh. His reſidence is at Dalkeith Houſe. 2. The Earl of Wemyſs, who has the lands of Stonyhill, which formerly belonged to Sir William Sharp, ſon of the Archbiſhop of St Andrew's, and before that was poſſeſſed by a family of the name of Dobie. His Lordſhip has likewiſe the lands of Monktonhall, with the coal under the whole lordſhip of Invereſk. Non-reſident. 3. Mrs Fullarton of Carberry, which eſtate was purchaſed from Sir Robert Dickſon, Bart. who was deſcended from Dr David Dickſon, Profeſſor of Divinity in the College of Edinburgh about the middle of laſt century. The family is now extinct. Reſident. 4. Sir Archibald Hope, Bart. of Craighall, proprietor of the barony of Pinkie, who has alſo acquired the barony of Monkton, late in the poſſeſſion of the Falconers, a branch of the family of Halkerton, which furniſhed

niſhed a Judge to the Court of Seſſion ſome time in laſt century. Reſident. 5. James Finlay, Eſq; of Walliford, which was formerly poſſeſſed by the Binnings, a family of ſome note in the law, one of whom was a Lord of Seſſion about the year 1672, and built the preſent manſion-houſe. Non-reſident. 6. Miſs Dalrymple of Hailes, the daughter of the late Lord Hailes, who has her family ſeat in this pariſh, called New Hailes; one of the firſt houſes whoſe park was laid out and adorned with all the elegance of modern taſte. Reſident. 7. John Wauchop, Eſq; has a part of his eſtate in this pariſh, which borders on the eſtate of Edminſtone, where he has his family ſeat. 8. The town of Muſſelburgh has alſo a conſiderable eſtate in this pariſh, which is held of the Duke of Buccleugh. There are many other ſmaller proprietors of land, who are all portioners of the lordſhip of Invereſk, as they are called, or feuars of the barony of Pinkie, or of the town of Muſſelburgh.

Minerals.—There is plenty of freeſtone in the pariſh, and likewiſe of limeſtone, though the laſt is not wrought at preſent. But the moſt valuable mines are thoſe of coal, which lie under the whole pariſh. The pits open at preſent are either the property of Sir Archibald Hope, or rented by him from the Earl of Wemyſs, and, being well managed, are very productive. In former times, till the year 1776, colliers were in a ſtate of ſlavery in Scotland, which was conſidered as a diſgrace to the Britiſh Government. Through ſome defect in the act of Parliament that ſet them free, or in the management of them ſince that period, there has ſometimes been a great ſcarcity of coals, though they can earn double the wages of any other labourers.

Agriculture.—The ſtate of agriculture has not yet arrived at perfection in this pariſh. The fields neareſt the towns,

towns are chiefly in the hands of butchers, bakers, brewers, and carters, and, being only ſubſidiary to their other employments, are not in the moſt perfect ſtate of cultivation. There are few fallows, and very rarely any green crops, though the ſoil, on the lordſhip of Invereſk eſpecially, is remarkably fit for them. From the former they are with-held by the fear of loſing a crop; and from the latter they are deterred by the multitude of idle children, and other depredators of ſuch crops in the neighbourhood. As the rent has now riſen to L. 2, 10 s. and L. 3 *per* acre, they will ſoon be obliged to follow the moſt profitable methods of huſbandry. The greater part of the lands in this pariſh run readily into graſs, and carry great crops of hay. The paſturage is likewiſe excellent; and as the demand for graſs grounds increaſes with the ſize and population of the capital, ſuch ſoils as are in its vicinity, muſt be able to bear the increaſed rent.

Improvements.—Two other circumſtances have contributed much to raiſe the rent of this pariſh, which, 40 years ago, was not more than L. 1, or L. 1, 5 s. *per* acre. The firſt was the dividing, and afterwards incloſing, about 700 acres of land in the fields of Invereſk, the property of many different feuers of that Lordſhip, about 35 years ago. The ſecond was the introduction of two horſe ploughs without a driver. The writer of this account, and Dr GRIEVE, then miniſter of Dalkeith, having each of them entered into the poſſeſſion of ſmall farms in the higher parts of their reſpective pariſhes, in the year 1768, being acquainted with the practice of the ancients in that particular, and having obſerved the wheel plough with two horſes, held and driven by one man, ſucceſsfully uſed for ſome years within the park of Dalkeith, reſolved to make trial of that method in their farms, though of a ſtrong clay ſoil. They began with horſes,

horſes, and in a ſhort time trained oxen likewiſe to the ſame operation. They were laughed at in the beginning by the neighbouring farmers; but when the ſecond year came round, and the luxuriance of their crops was obſerved, their example was immediately followed by all their neighbours. The practice ſpread itſelf gradually all around, and for many years there has been no plowing in all the Lothians, or in the Merſe, but with two horſes and one man; while, at the ſame time, the inſtrument itſelf has been cheapened and amended by Mr Small of Dalkeith's improvement on the Scotch plough. It is obvious how much this change muſt have contributed to leſſen the expence of tillage, and to raiſe the rent of land.

Manufactures, &c.—Though this town and pariſh are remarkably well ſituated for manufactures, having the command of water, plenty of coals at hand, cheap houſes, and a multitude of idle children, yet hitherto none very conſiderable have been eſtabliſhed. This is perhaps owing to their having been at all times carriers and furniſhers of various kinds of proviſions for the capital, which employed them in a manner more agreeable to them, than the ſedentary lives of manufacturers could have been. In the end of laſt century, a broad cloth manufactory was begun here, and was long carried on in great perfection, though not to great extent. Some excellent cloth, both coarſe and fine, continues ſtill to be made here by Meſſrs Cathie, Stewart, Nichols and Dickſon *. There has lately been introduced

* In the early part of this century, they manufactured large quantities of coarſe wool, into a kind of checks, called Muſſelburgh ſtuffs, at the price of from 2½d. to 5d. *per* yard, which were moſtly exported to America, for gowns to female ſervants. But the progreſs of the cotton manufacture has long ſuperſeded that branch, and for many years the uſe of that low-priced ſtuff

introduced the manufacture of Mancheſter goods, thickſets, waiſtcoats, handkerchiefs, &c. on a ſmall ſcale, which promiſes to do well. There is a thriving ſtone ware pottery, as well as a pottery for brown ware at this place *. There are ſeveral ſoap-boilers and ſtarch-makers in this pariſh: One of the latter ſort, at Monkton, of conſiderable extent †; which, in the year preceding July 6. 1792, paid no leſs than L. 4064 : 13 : 4 of exciſe duty, and was carried on by Aitchiſon, Brown, and Company, the proprietors of the great diſtillery in St Clement's Wells, locally in the pariſh of Tranent, but on the boundary of this pariſh, in which they have their rectifying-houſe, and their malting, and where moſt of their workmen reſide. This is a diſtillery of great extent. The barley made into malt in one year, from July 6. 1791 to July 6. 1792, amounted to 13,131 bolls. They feed off 600 cattle twice a-year, beſides many hundreds of hogs at the ſtarch-work and here; and the effects of their dung are perceived not only on their own extenſive farms, but on many fields in the neighbourhood. The brewing of beer and ale has much decreaſed of late, there having been only 1460 bolls of barley made into malt liquor

ſtuff has been diſcontinued. Between 30 and 40 years ago, a cotton manufactory was begun and carried on here, ſo as to employ above 200 looms, moſt of which were in this pariſh. That alſo has been given up for ſome time paſt, as the ſame kind of cloth came to be furniſhed cheaper in other parts of the country. Some years ago there was a china manufacture at Weſtpans, in this pariſh, which received ſome encouragement from the nobility and gentry, as the artiſt ſucceeded well in fabricating ornamental china: But as he never could make tea-table china cheap enough for common ſale, and had no ſtock, it was ſoon given up.

* It is ſituated in a garden, where, three ſcore years ago, ſtood the manſion-houſe of Weſt-pans, then poſſeſſed by a family of the name of JOICE, or JOICY, now extinct, whoſe eſtate was what is now called *Drummore*, in the pariſh of Preſton-pans.

† This ſtarch work was given up in 1793.

liquor here, during the above period, many families being now ſupplied with table beer from Leith or Preſtonpans, which they find ſuperior to that brewed here. If it is a wiſe meaſure to increaſe the price of ſpiritous liquors, by the immoderate uſe of which both the health and morals of the common people are deſtroyed, it ſeems neceſſary to ſupply them with a cheap and wholeſome beverage in place of it; their ordinary drink, twopenny, being now much degraded in its quality, ſince the average price of barley has been ſo high. What may we not look for, from that eminent ſtateſman and patriot, by whoſe attention to local circumſtances, which he ſo well knows, we have derived ſo many advantages, and have had ſo many grievances redreſſed?—There are ſalt-pans in two places in this pariſh, *viz. Weſt-pans*, ſo called, becauſe it is ſituated weſt of Preſton-pans, anciently called *Salt-Preſton*, and *Magdalen-pans*, which lie at the weſt end of this pariſh, in both of which are made great quantities of ſalt.

Incorporations.—Beſides theſe, all ſorts of handicraft trades are carried on in great perfection at Muſſelburgh, and are divided into ſeven companies, or incorporations, having charters from the town of Muſſelburgh.—There is alſo an incorporation of ſailors, or traffickers, which includes perſons of various profeſſions, who have a ſeparate box, and funds of their own; and likewiſe a ſociety of maſons, and another of carters, and many others, who aſſociate together for the ſake of their poor.

Occupations of Women.—Forty or fifty years ago, and in the times preceding, the city of Edinburgh was chiefly furniſhed with the product of the garden from Muſſelburgh and Fiſherrow. The nature of the ſoil, well calculated for early crops, and perhaps the ſkill they had derived from the

example of the Roman colony, may have led them to this branch of buſineſs which they ſtill preſerve; though they are far from poſſeſſing the monopoly of greens and garden ſtuffs, which they had in more ancient times. The demand for vegetables has increaſed ten-fold within theſe 50 years, and horticulture has been ſo much encouraged in richer ſoils near the capital, that all the ſuperiority that the gardeners here can now pretend to, is to furniſh the earlieſt crops of peaſe and beans, *&c.* for a week or two, as the markets are ſoon filled from the more luxuriant garden grounds nearer the city. Connoiſſeurs in that ſort of viand, however, ſtill prefer the produce of the lighter ſoil, which is leſs impregnated with dung. The whole produce of the gardens, together with ſalt, and ſand for waſhing floors, and other articles, till of late that carts have been introduced, were carried in baſkets or creels on the backs of women, to be ſold in Edinburgh, where, after they had made their market, it was uſual for them to return loaded with goods, or parcels of various ſorts, for the inhabitants here, or with dirty linens to be waſhed in the pure water of the Eſk. This employment of women, which has certainly prevailed ever ſince Edinburgh became a conſiderable city, when joined to that of the fiſh-wives in Fiſherrow, has occaſioned a reverſal of the ſtate of the ſexes in this pariſh, and has formed a character and manners, in the female ſex, which ſeems peculiar to them, at leaſt in this country *. The carriers of greens, ſalt,

* The women of Bilboa in Spain, according to the account of a traveller, Baron DILLON, (page 174) are even ſuperior in ſtrength and activity to thoſe of Fiſherrow. 'In other countries,' ſays he, 'women are oppreſſed with the ſlighteſt fatigue; here they work as much as the ſtrongeſt men; unload ſhips, carry burdens, and do all the buſineſs of porters. The very felons, confined in the mines of Almaden, do nothing in compariſon of theſe females. They go barefooted, and are remarkably active, carrying burdens on

ſalt, *&c.* are generally the wives of weavers, ſhoemakers, tailors, or ſievemakers, who, being confined by their employments within doors, take charge of the children and family, while the females trudge to Edinburgh about their ſeveral branches of buſineſs, long before day in winter, and return by mid-day, or later, according to the time ſpent in ſelling their commodities. Their uſual daily profits may be computed at from 8 d. to 1 s. 3 d. which, beſides the free, ſocial, and diſengaged life which they lead, is a greater addition to the income of the family, than they could earn by any other branch of induſtry.—The women, who carry ſand to Edinburgh, have the hardeſt labour, and earn leaſt. For they carry their burden, which is not leſs than 200 lb. weight, every morning to Edinburgh, return at noon, and paſs the afternoon and evening in the quarry, digging the ſtones, and beating them into ſand. By this labour, which is inceſſant for ſix days in the week, they gain only about 5 d. a-day.

The *Fiſh-wives*, as they are all of one claſs, and educated in it from their infancy, are of a character and manners ſtill more ſingular than the former, and particularly diſtinguiſhed by the laborious lives they lead. They are the wives and daughters of fiſhermen, who generally marry in their own caſt, or tribe, as great part of their buſineſs, to which they muſt have been bred, is to gather bait for their huſbands, and bait their lines. Four days in the week, however, they carry fiſh in creels (oſier baſkets) to Edin-

on their heads, which require two men to lift up. The wife yields not in ſtrength to the huſband, nor the ſiſter to the brother; and after a cheerful glaſs, though heavily loaded, they move on with alacrity, returning home in the evening without the appearance of laſſitude, often arm and arm, dancing and ſinging to the tabor and pipe.' This is a very exact picture of the fiſh-wives here; ſo ſimilar are the manners of human creatures in ſimilar circumſtances.

burgh; and when the boats come in late to the harbour in the forenoon, ſo as to leave them no more than time to reach Edinburgh before dinner, it is not unuſual for them to perform their journey of five miles, by relays, three of them being employed in carrying one baſket, and ſhifting it from one to another every hundred yards, by which means they have been known to arrive at the Fiſhmarket in leſs than ¾ths of an hour *.

While haddocks were in abundance on the coaſt, great quantities were taken by the ſeven boats of Fiſherrow; though the beſt fiſh for many years have been brought three times a-week from Eyemouth on horſeback, and unloaded here, to be carried in creels to Edinburgh, by which means the carriers are enabled to reach home the ſame day. For ſeven years paſt, ſince the haddocks have diſappeared, and few fiſh are to be caught by the Fiſherrow boatmen, on account of their diſtance from deep water, where the fiſh are to be found, it is uſual for them to meet the boats from the eaſt end of Fife, half way down the frith, and to purchaſe their fiſh. In the ſummer ſeaſon the boats from that coaſt frequently run over to Fiſherrow, and ſell their cargoes to the fiſh-women here. This they do rather than run up to Leith, becauſe they can diſpoſe of their fiſh immediately, and ſail home again to their reſpective harbours on the ſame day, with the ebb tide. The fiſh-wives who carry to Edinburgh, gain at leaſt 1 s. a-day, and frequently double and triple that ſum.

From the kind of life theſe women lead, it may naturally be concluded, that their manners are peculiar, as they certainly are.

* It is a well atteſted fact, that three of them, not many years ago, went from Dunbar to Edinburgh, which is 27 miles, with each of them a load of herrings on her back of 200 lb. in 5 hours. They ſometimes carry loads of 250 lb.

are. Having ſo great a ſhare in the maintenance of the family, they have no ſmall ſway in it, as may be inferred from a ſaying not unuſual among them. When ſpeaking of a young woman, reported to be on the point of marriage, "Hout!" ſay they, "How can ſhe keep a man, "who can hardly maintain herſell?" As they do the work of men, their manners are maſculine, and their ſtrength and activity is equal to their work. Their amuſements are of the maſculine kind. On holidays they frequently play at *golf*; and on Shrove Tueſday there is a ſtanding match at *foot-ball*, between the married and unmarried women, in which the former are always victors.

Their manner of life, and the buſineſs of making their markets, whet their faculties, and make them very dexterous in bargain making. They have likewiſe a ſpecies of rude eloquence, an extreme facility in expreſſing their feelings by words or geſtures, which is very impoſing, and enables them to carry their points even againſt the moſt wary; and they are too well acquainted with the world, to be abaſhed when they are detected in any of their arts *. It is remarkable, that though a conſiderable degree of licentiouſneſs appears in their freedom of ſpeech, it does not ſeem to have tainted their morals, in a point where it might have chiefly been expected; there being no claſs of women, it is believed, who offend leſs againſt the ſeventh commandment, excepting in *words*, than they do. There ſeems to be no employment, that conduces more to health and good ſpirits than theirs. Some of them have been brought to

* It is not here meant to impeach their honeſty, for which they are on a par with all other ſmall traffickers. An eminent merchant of Edinburgh told the writer, that he has often dealt with ſome of them to the amount of L. 600 in a ſeaſon, for ſalt herrings, without one line of writing, and never loſt a farthing by them.

to bed, and have gone to Edinburgh on foot with their baſkets within the week. It is perfectly well aſcertained, that one, who was delivered on Wedneſday morning, went to town with her creel on the Saturday forenoon following. There is a charm in the free and active life they lead, which renders them averſe to all ſedentary employments. They never wear ſhoes or ſtockings but on Sundays, which is not to be attributed to their poverty, but to the nature of their employment. Strangers from the ſouth, diſguſted at this practice, which more or leſs prevails among the women of the inferior claſs in this country, and ſtill more with the cuſtom of trampling linens in waſhing tubs, (which is not yet entirely diſcontinued, though gradually wearing out), cry out againſt both as ſhocking pieces of barbarity. It may be remarked, however, in regard to the former practice, that the Greek and Roman women, (even the ladies in the houſe), wore neither ſhoes nor ſtockings.

From ſuch parents, as might be expected, proceeds a race of children, healthy, active, and robuſt; and Lord MONBODDO, and the LYCURGUSES of the age, will no doubt look forward with anxiety to the period, when the work that is now done by women, ſhall come to be entirely performed by horſes and carts. For their conſolation, however, it may be obſerved, that we perceive at preſent no difference between the children of Muſſelburgh and thoſe of Fiſherrow, where the fiſhers live. Where the labouring poor have enough to feed their children with, there is little doubt, that the race will always prove both ſtrong and numerous.

Population.—The population of this pariſh has increaſed conſiderably, ſince Dr Webſter made his computation in 1755, which is chiefly owing to the preſent thriving ſtate

of the collieries, there having been only one pit open at the former period. The people of all ages were carefully numbered in November and December 1792, when none of the ſummer lodgers were here, and amounted as follows *:

I. *In the Burgh.*

In Muſſelburgh, Weſt-pans, &c. - -	1640		
In Newbigging, - - - -	490		
		2130	
In Fiſherrow, Market-gate, Bridgend, &c. -	1799		
In Timber-buſh, Spring-garden, Brunſtane-mill, Magdalene pans, &c. - -	86		
		1885	
Total in the Burgh, -			4015

II. *In the Country Pariſh.*

In the village of Invereſk, - - -	235		
In the country, ſouth-eaſt, - - -	238		
In Monkton-hall, - - -	163		
In Monkton and Cairney, - -	120		
In White-hill and New Hailes, - -	61		
In Stoney-hill and Stoney-bank, &c. -	148		
		865	

Employed in the Coal-works.

In the Coal-pits, - - -	260		
At Craig-hall, - - -	252		
		512	
Total in the country, - -			1377
Total number of ſouls in the pariſh, - -			5392
The number of ſouls in 1755, when Dr Webſter took up his liſt, was			4645
Increaſe †, - - -			747

The

* Thoſe belonging to the burgh of Muſſelburgh make one diviſion of the pariſh, and thoſe in the country, not under their juriſdiction, make another.

† This increaſe, as was already obſerved, is chiefly to be imputed to the thriving ſtate of the coal-works; for, though the number of buildings in

The number of regiſtered baptiſms has been, at an average for ſeven years preceding this year, (1793,) not quite 183, which, multiplied by 26, gives only 4758, a number far below that of the actual enumeration at this time.

The BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES and DEATHS, during thoſe years, were as below:

	Baptiſms.	Marriages.	Deaths.
1786,	203	49	118
1787,	157	34	126
1788,	211	59	189
1789,	195	48	121
1790,	207	47	149
1791,	144	37	209
1792,	161	47	205
Total	1278	321	1117
Average	$182\frac{4}{7}$	$45\frac{6}{7}$	$159\frac{4}{7}$

Occupations.—in the towns is much increaſed, and there are many handſome houſes, where there were only cottages before, yet ſeveral of theſe muſt have been demoliſhed, to make room for one good houſe: as the towns are likewiſe much reſorted to in ſummer for ſea-bathing, there are many good houſes, which are not more than half inhabited in winter. There is ground to believe, that this pariſh was nearly as populous laſt century as it is now, becauſe it is certain, that at that time, when every perſon arrived, at a mature age, was obliged to communicate, there were 3000 communicants in the pariſh. In thoſe days there were ſome ſmall, but populous villages ſcattered about, and many ſmall farms that are now no more. This applies to the firſt part of this century likewiſe; for, on an average of the burials for 12 years, from 1717 to 1728, there died annually 159, which multiplied by 36, produces 5724; whereas from 1769 to 1780 inclusive, the average was only 121, which produces 4356. This laſt period, however, was probably that of the loweſt population, as all the ſmall farms were aboliſhed, and the diſtilleries, ſtarch-works, *&c.* were not introduced, and few coal-pits were open. The number of baptiſms does not form ſo juſt a rule of computation as that of deaths, as many children die without baptiſm, and not a few of the ſectaries ſhun entering the names of their children in the regiſter, which affords a good reaſon for *aboliſhing* a tax that is ſo little productive.

Occupations.—The trades of Muſſelburgh, with the number of maſters in each trade, are as follows:

Incorporations.		Fiſhermen,	49
Wrights and Smiths,	70	Fiſh-wives,	90
Tailors,	30	Salt-wives,	50
Shoemakers,	96	Wine-merchants,	4
Bakers,	44	Milliners,	2
Gardeners,	16	Mantua-makers,	10
Weavers,	140	Hair-dreſſers,	6
Fleſhers,	50	Perfumers,	2
Not Incorporated.		Carters, who have no land, and live by carrying coals, *&c.*	63
Maſons,	40		
Grocers,	10		

*Eccleſiaſtical State**.—There are four places of worſhip in this pariſh, 1. The Eſtabliſhed Church; 2. The Epiſcopal meeting-houſe, which has exiſted in ſome ſhape ever ſince the Revolution, and is attended by a few gentlemens families; 3. A Burgher Seceding meeting-houſe, which was built about 25 years ago; 4. A Church of Relief, which was erected in the year 1783, but would not have been built had the church been large enough for the pariſh. St Michael's of Invereſk, the pariſh-church, is of great antiquity, but uncertain date. It is moſt likely, that it was built ſoon after the introduction of Chriſtianity, out of the ruins

* The miniſters of this pariſh ſince the Reformation have been, firſt, Mr Andrew Blackhall, who was admitted previous to the year 1591, and died in 1609; to him ſucceeded Mr Adam Colt, who, with his ſon, Mr Oliver Colt, filled up the reſt of that century till the year 1679. Mr Arthur Millar was ordained in 1680; to whom Mr Richard Howiſon ſucceeded about the year 1690. Mr John Williamſon was ordained here in 1701; on whoſe death in 1739, Mr Frederick Carmichael was admitted miniſter; who having been tranſlated to Edinburgh in the year 1747, the preſent incumbent was ordained here on the 2d of Auguſt 1748, who is married, but has no children alive.

ruins of the Roman fort. The ſtone it is built of appears to be the ſame with thoſe diſcovered in the ruins of the pretorium. There are evidently many old ſtones, and many Roman bricks in the building. There ſeems beſides to have been no good reaſon, for chuſing a ſituation ſo diſtant from the towns, which have always been the moſt populous parts of the pariſh, had it not been for the conveniency of uſing the old materials. The body of the church is 102 feet long, and only 23 feet wide within the walls; but there are four aiſles, two on each ſide of the church, that have been built at different periods, and double rows of galleries in the ends of the church. The whole is now in a ruinous condition, and is truly a diſgrace to the pariſh. Several attempts have lately been made to have it rebuilt, either in its preſent ſituation, or on one more commodious, which have failed. This ſtate of the church is not only of no ſmall diſadvantage to the poors funds, but to the religion and morals of the people, as it leaves ſuch a number of them to be infected with ſectarian principles, which, without laying any thing to the charge of the preſent incumbents, are at beſt uncertain. The ſituation of the church is remarkably fine, not only on account of the extenſive view of the country which it commands, though the hill is not more than 50 feet above the level of the ſea, but likewiſe as a military ſtation, as was formerly obſerved *. There are two mounts or ramparts, one on the north ſide, and another on the eaſt end of the church-yard †, that

* Oliver Cromwell's cavalry lay there for 6 or 8 weeks, in 1650, while his foot were encamped on the links of Muſſelburgh. The church ſerved Oliver as a ſtable for his cavalry. The place, where his own tent was erected, is ſtill ſhewn on Muſſelburgh links.

† The eaſtern rampart having been levelled 5 or 6 years ago to extend the burying-ground, and a foundation for a monument having been lately dug

that are called *Oliver's Mounts*, and are ſuppoſed to have been batteries of Cromwell's, one to command the bridge, and the other to defend his magazine which was in the village of Invereſk. Lord HAILES uſed to alledge that they were of greater antiquity than Cromwell, and might have been ramparts of a Roman camp; but the circumſtance mentioned in the note affords a ſtrong preſumption of the contrary.

The ſtipend, from 1650 till 1781, was 1 chalder of wheat, 1 of barley, and 1 of oats; and L. 66, 10 s. in money. In 1781, the preſent incumbent obtained an augmentation, and the ſtipend is now 2 chalders of wheat, 3 of barley, and 3 of oats, paid in money, at the fiars of Mid-Lothian, and L. 62 in money, including communion-elements. There is likewiſe a glebe of 5½ acres incloſed by the preſent incumbent, together with a houſe and garden, and a field before the houſe, making in all an acre, which were given by the town of Muſſelburgh to the miniſter of the pariſh, when the manſe was built in 1681; for an addition to which field, made in 1758, he pays 1 s. yearly of feu-duty. Since 1702 there has been an aſſiſtant probationer, for whom there is a very ſlender ſupport, out of certain funds allotted for that purpoſe. The Duke of Buccleugh is patron of the pariſh.

Burgh.—Muſſelburgh is a very ancient burgh of Regality *, and was once called *Muſſelburgh-ſhire*. The mill,

dug, as deep as 7 feet below the ſurface of the church-yard, and 11 below the top of the mount, there were found many human bones in full preſervation, which ſeems to furniſh proof that the ramparts had been erected ſince the field was incloſed for a church-yard.

* Before the Reformation, it was an eccleſiaſtical burgh belonging, *inter alia*, to the abbacy of Dunfermline. It was disjoined by King James VI. from that abbacy, and given in donation to one of the family of Lauderdale; and when the whole abbacy was given to Queen Ann of Denmark, ſhe reclaimed the regality of Muſſelburgh, as comprehended under

to which this regality was aſtricted and thirled, is called the *Shire-mill*, and the wood along the banks of the river, of which little remains, is called *Shire-wood*; and *Sheriff-hall* at the extremity of the regality has acquired its name in the ſame manner.

Muſſelburgh is an ancient eccleſiaſtical and incorporate burgh, holden of the Lord Superior of the Regality, who is now the Duke of Buccleugh, on payment of certain ſums annually as quit-rent or feu-duty. The territories of the Burgh extend along the ſea-coaſt, the whole length of the pariſh, and are about two meaſured miles and a half in length, and from one half to one fourth of a mile in breadth.

Charters.—The moſt ancient charter of this burgh now extant is dated December 11. 1562, and is granted by ROBERT Commendator of Dunfermline, with conſent of the whole members of the convent. It narrates, 'That the "title-deeds belonging to the burgh were burnt by their "enemies the Engliſh, after the fatal battle of Pinkie; "therefore they of new grant, diſpone, and confirm to the "preſent bailies, community and inhabitants of Muſſel-"burgh, and to their ſucceſſors," *&c.* which is not inconſiſtent with what has been before mentioned as a traditional account, *viz.* That their firſt charter was procured, by means of their attention to Randolph Earl of Murray, who died in their town. This charter is confirmed by many ſubſequent charters and acts of Parliament, particularly

under the gift. But the proprietor contended, that it had *ab ante* been gifted to him, which defence was ſuſtained. Certain parts, however, of this regality and pariſh have been disjoined, and added to the pariſhes of Cranſton, Newton, and Dalkeith. This Lordſhip was held by the family of Lauderdale till the year 1709, when it was purchaſed by the Duchess of Monmouth and Buccleugh.

larly by a charter from the Earl, afterwards Duke of Lauderdale, dated *anno* 1670, in which all their ancient rights and privileges are narrated and confirmed.

Government, &c.—The town-council conſiſts of 18 members, 10 being elected from Muſſelburgh, and 8 from Fiſherrow. The whole regality in this diviſion is conſidered as Fiſherrow, except what is within the ancient ports of Muſſelburgh. Out of theſe, two bailies and a treaſurer are annually elected, but may not be re-elected more than two years without intermiſſion. Two councillors go off annually by a vote of the council, and two are choſen in their room by the ſame body. Their revenue is now very conſiderable, ariſing from feu-duties paid by the proprietors of all the houſes in their territories, and from their lands and mills, and the ſhore-dues of their harbour. The two laſt are of a fluctuating nature, and have increaſed of late, the one on account of their good ſtate, and the other by means of the great reſort of ſhipping with grain for the diſtillery. Were the laſt to be given up, the dues of the harbour would have little elſe to ſupport them but fiſhing boats, and the buſineſs of the two or three timber and iron merchants ſettled there, which indeed is conſiderable. The annual revenue of the town is not leſs than L. 1500.—The magiſtrates, by their title-deeds are empowered to hold a court of record, and iſſue precepts both on their decrees and regiſtrations. They are empowered to grant infeftment by haſp and ſtaple, *more burgi*; but their clerk is not entitled to a protocal record of infeftments, as in burghs royal. Their infeftments muſt be recorded in the county regiſter; but being an incorporated burgh, under that title it is excepted out of the late juriſdiction act, and ſtill remains poſſeſſed of its ancient

cient privileges *. Upon the whole, this burgh has all the privileges of any royal burgh in Scotland, except thoſe of voting for a member of Parliament, and ſending a delegate to the Convention of Burghs.

Archery.—There is an ancient ſilver arrow in this town, which is ſhot for annually by the Royal Company of Archers. The victor receives L. 1, 10 s. Sterling from the town, and a riddel full of claret, *viz.* one dozen, and is bound to append a medal of gold or ſilver to the arrow, before the next year's annual meeting. The earlieſt date of any of the medals is 1603; but there are a few that are more ancient without a date. This ancient mode of warfare having gone into diſuſe, ſince the invention of fire arms, was likely to have fallen into total oblivion, had it not been for thoſe ancient prizes eſtabliſhed in different parts of the kingdom, which preſerved the remembrance of it; but it has been lately revived in Edinburgh, and other cities and towns in England, as well as in Scotland, and has become an exerciſe as faſhionable as it is manly. Archery is an exerciſe peculiarly well ſuited to large cities, where young gentlemen of various profeſſions have neither leiſure nor opportunity for the diverſions of the chace and the field.

Golf.—The golf, ſo long a favourite and peculiar exerciſe of the Scots, is much in uſe here †. Children are trained

* In the year 1632, Muſſelburgh was, by a charter under the great ſeal, erected into a royal burgh; but the magiſtrates of Edinburgh obtained a decreet of reduction of that charter before the privy-council, dated November 30. 1632, in conſequence of a compromiſe with the magiſtrates of Muſſelburgh.

† The following account of the Dutch game, called KOLF, was very obligingly communicated by the Rev. Mr WALKER, one of the miniſters

trained to it in their early days, being enticed by the beauty of the links, (which lie on each ſide of the river, between

of the Canongate, whoſe former reſidence in Holland has enabled him to give a very ſatisfactory deſcription of that game.

The Dutch game called *Kolf*, from which the word GOLF is derived, as both are probably from the Greek word, κολοφος, is played in an incloſed rectangular area of about 60 feet by 25. The floor, which is a compoſition of ſand, clay, and pitch, is made as level as a billiard table, and the incloſing walls are for two feet above the floor, faced either with poliſhed ſtone, or ſheet lead, that they may cauſe the ball rebound with accuracy. At about 8 or 10 feet from each end wall, a circular poſt of about 5 inches diameter is placed preciſely in the middle of the area with regard to breadth, conſequently oppoſite the one to the other, and at the diſtance of 40 feet or thereby. The balls uſed in the game are about the ſize of cricket balls, made perfectly round and elaſtic, covered with ſoft leather, and ſewed with fine wire. The clubs are from three to four feet long, with ſtiff ſhafts. The heads are of braſs, and the face, with which the ball is ſtruck, is perfectly ſmooth, having no inclination, ſuch as might have a tendency to raiſe the ball from the ground. The angle, which the head makes with the ſhaft, is nearly the ſame with that of the *putting* clubs uſed at golf. The game may be played by any number, either in parties againſt each other, or each perſon for himſelf; and the conteſt is, who ſhall hit the two poſts in the feweſt ſtrokes, and make his ball retreat from the laſt one with ſuch an accurate length, as that it ſhall lie neareſt to the oppoſite end wall of the area. The firſt ſtroke is made from within a few inches of what is called the *beginning poſt*, and the player directs his ball as preciſely as he can on the oppoſite one, that he may hit it if poſſible, computing at the ſame time the force of his ſtroke, ſo that, ſhould he miſs it, (which from the diſtance may be ſuppoſed to be moſt frequently the caſe), his ball may rebound from the end wall, and lie within a moderate diſtance of the poſt, and before it, *i. e.* between the two poſts, rather than between the poſt and the end wall. The reaſon of preferring this ſituation of the ball, will appear by reflecting how much eaſier it is in that caſe to ſend the ball, after ſtriking the poſt, back again towards the other one. The ſkill of the game conſiſts in ſtriking the poſt in ſuch a way, whether full or otherwiſe, as may ſend the ball towards the place where you wiſh it to reſt. It combines the addreſs required both in golf and in billiards. Five points make the game; and ſuch is the difference between a capital and an ordinary player, that the former will give four

points

tween the two towns and the ſea), and excited by the example of their parents. To preſerve the taſte for this ancient diverſion, a company of gentlemen, about 18 years ago, purchaſed a ſilver cup, which is played for annually in the month of April, and is for a year in the poſſeſſion of the victor, who is obliged to append a medal to it, when he reſtores it to the company. The inhabitants of Muſſelburgh had need to watch over this precious field for health and exerciſe, leſt in ſome unlucky period the magiſtrates and council ſhould be induced to feu it out, on pretence of increaſing the revenue of the town. At preſent it is a common, to which every burgeſs has a right of paſturage; although part of it has already been let off in feu, which has made the entry to the town, both from the eaſt and weſt, leſs free and open than it formerly was, and greatly decreaſed the beauty and amenity of the place.

Education.—There is now, and there has long been a flouriſhing grammar ſchool in this place, under the patronage of the magiſtrates and town-council, (with the miniſter); who, upon an agreement with the heritors of the pariſh, ſettled a ſalary on the maſter, payable out of their funds, in lieu of which they accepted of the dues ariſing from mortcloths

points of the game, and frequently be the winner. This ſuperiority of play I experienced myſelf at a *kolf baan* near the Hague, after I had conſiderable practice in the game, and was, in fact, no mean player. With the advantage of three points I was completely beaten, and even when I got four, I could hardly preſerve any tolerable equality.

A great advantage of the game of *kolf* is, that it can be played at all ſeaſons, and in all weather, as the place is as cloſe as a houſe, while, at the ſame time, by opening the windows, which are very large, you may have a ſufficiency of air. There is generally a kind of apartment at one end of the *kolf baan*, two or three ſteps higher than the floor, where ſpectators may enjoy the ſight of the game, as far as the clouds of tobacco ſmoke, with which they commonly fill it, will allow.

mortcloths at funerals, which were part of the funds at the diſpoſal of the heritors. The ſchoolmaſter has a ſalary of L. 28 *per annum*, and a good houſe and garden. The town-council and principal inhabitants have lately enabled their laſt incumbent, who in his younger years had a flouriſhing ſchool, to retire on a penſion; and Mr John Taylor, from Kelſo, has been appointed in his room, with ſo much approbation of the public, that his houſe is already filled with boarders. This town is conſidered as in ſo healthy a ſituation, and is ſo convenient for education, (having the advantage of eaſily procuring the beſt maſters from Edinburgh, for the French and Italian languages, muſic, drawing, and other accompliſhments), that of late years boarding ſchools for young ladies have met with great encouragement. At preſent there are two of much eminence, of which Miſs Grant and Miſs Primroſe are governeſſes; beſides a third at a lower board, by Miſs Neilſon, who merits and meets with encouragement. There are ſeveral very good writing-maſters in the place; and Mr Thomas Salmon, teacher of dancing, has been eſtabliſhed here for more than 30 years, and continues to teach with increaſing reputation. While the maſters and miſtreſſes of thoſe ſchools preſerve their reputation for ability, diligence, and tender care of the children, and continue to admit boarders and ſcholars at a reaſonable rate, the additional advantages of ſituation cannot fail to procure them full employment. By means of the bounty of the Ducheſs of Buccleugh, and the contributions of ſome pious and charitable ladies of the pariſh, there have been Sunday's ſchools for theſe three years, both in Muſſelburgh and Fiſherrow; which, though unneceſſary in general in Scotland, where the pariſh ſchools are ſufficient, yet are of much utility here, where, on account of the poverty and conſtant occupations of the parents, the inſtruction of many children was neglected.

Surgeons, Diſeaſes, &c.—There are four ſurgeons in this pariſh, who, having been all well educated to their profeſſion, are, according to the mode of the country, conſulted and confided in as phyſicians, except in extraordinary caſes, when doctors graduate are called from Edinburgh; which, being ſo nigh at hand, is the reaſon why no phyſician has ever ſettled here. The pariſh is remarkably healthy. Epidemical diſtempers are ſeldom fatal, except the ſmall-pox, which now and then ſweeps away too many children. Inoculation is by no means univerſal, which is probably owing to the influence the ſectaries have over the minds of their neighbours; an obſervation that is derived from a peruſal of many of the Statiſtical Accounts already publiſhed. They have, nevertheleſs, great encouragement to extend the practice, as one of the ſurgeons, who has not been ſettled here above 3 years, has inoculated above 200, without having loſt one. The havock hitherto made by the ſmall pox, however, cannot be very great, as during the whole courſe of theſe 40 years laſt, (the funeral records of which the writer of this account has examined), the higheſt average for 12 years is 159, and the greateſt number in any one of theſe years is only 219. Forty years ago, there were but three perſons in the pariſh who had ever been troubled with the gout, and two of thoſe were not natives. At preſent they are chiefly ſtrangers who are troubled with that diſeaſe. The gravel is alſo rare, which may be owing to the goodneſs of the water, or rather to that new briſk ſmall beer without hops, which is the common beverage of the people; though not ſo much as it was formerly, as the twopenny has degenerated; and cheap whiſky, that bane of the health and morals of the people, has been ſubſtituted in its room. Nothing ſeems more worthy of the attention of the Legiſlature, than thoſe circumſtances, however minute, which tend to corrupt the morals of the commons of this country, who have ſo long been remarkable for ſobriety and virtue.

Longevity.

Longevity.—There are always many aged people in this pariſh, and what is of more importance, they preſerve their vigour and their faculties to the laſt. There are, and have been many women paſt fourſcore, who travel to Edinburgh with their creels, and return by mid-day; men of the ſame age are many of them not paſt labour; and there are a few perſons at preſent living in this pariſh, who, though approaching to 90, are as ſtout and lively as ſome others of threeſcore *. The oldeſt perſon now living is a woman of 94, who carried the creel in her youth, and ſtill ſpins.

Law.—There is but one reſident writer or attorney in the pariſh, who is the town-clerk. As all the ſmall cauſes commence at the town-court, the parties in general are induced to acquieſce in the firſt judgment, whether they think it right or wrong, as there is no advice at hand to tempt them to carry it farther. Cuſtom has taught them to ſubmit to the firſt deciſion, which happily prevents the entail of feuds and endleſs litigation upon them.

Morals and Manners.—The people of this pariſh are not free from ſuch vices, as are incident to perſons in their ſituation. The faults that are attached to dealers in ſmall articles are not uncommon among them, but great crimes are very rare. Large cities are the nurſeries of crimes, as they furniſh the means of privacy and concealment, as well as of temptation. But populous villages, if not favourable to ſome of the virtues, are at leaſt diſcouraging to ſcandalous vices; becauſe, in ſo cloſe a neighbourhood, every action is perfectly known, and there is no cenſorial power half ſo effectual as the opinion of equals. Few great

* Robert Mitchell, a chelſea-penſioner and aſs-driver, died laſt winter (1792) aged 91, and might probably have lived to 100, had he not firſt broke his leg, and afterwards, before it was recovered, fallen into the fire, and been ſcorched to death.

crimes have been attempted, or brought to light in this pariſh *. The manners of the people are open and hoſpitable, though not ſo gentle and mild as might be expected from the ſubſerviency of their ſtate. But the influence women have upon manners is prevalent in every condition †. The change in

* No perſon has been convicted of a capital felony ſince the year 1728, when the famous Maggy Dickſon was condemned and executed for child-murder in the Graſs-market of Edinburgh, and was reſtored to life in a cart, on her way to Muſſelburgh to be buried. Her huſband had been abſent for a year, working in the keels at Newcaſtle, when Maggy fell with child, and to conceal her ſhame, was tempted to put it to death. She kept an ale-houſe in a neighbouring pariſh for many years after ſhe came to life again, which was much reſorted to from curioſity. But Margaret, in ſpite of her narrow eſcape, was not reformed, according to the account given by her cotemporaries, but lived, and *died again*, in profligacy. For 25 years paſt the *Stool of Repentance*, that relict of Popery, has been diſcontinued in this pariſh, and one ſtrong temptation to this crime of child-murder, which formerly prevailed ſo much, has been withdrawn. This branch of penance has been too long a diſgrace to the country, and highly degrading to a reſpectable body of men, who ſat monthly in judgment, with little elſe to do, than to find out the fathers of the children of licentious women. It had a ſtill worſe effect than that of degrading the clergy, as it impreſſed on the minds of the people an idea, that there is no other crime great enough to deſerve eccleſiaſtical cenſures, but fornication.

† No change has ever been more complete and rapid, than that of manners, in many reſpects, within theſe 40 years. In the beginning of that period, penny bridals, promiſcuous dancing, and cards and dice were abſented from and ſhunned by the grave, becauſe they had been prohibited in the acts of Aſſemblies of an ancient date. Clergymen, in thoſe days, were ſometimes libelled for dancing and playing at cards, even in private houſes; as well as for ſhaving or dreſſing their hair, or dining in a neighbour's houſe on the Lord's day. Happily thoſe *fictitious vices*, an eaſy abſtinence from which gave credit to the whole train of *artificial virtues* in a falſe and hypocritical character, are now no more; and clergymen and their families are on the ſame footing in reſpect to all innocent amuſements,

in the dress, too, of mechanics and labourers, is as remarkable here as any where in Scotland, as, indeed, might well be expected from their vicinity to the capital.

Prices

ments, with persons of the same rank in any other profession, as far as is consistent with the dignity and gravity of the clerical character.

It is well known, that the manners of a people are stronger than those laws which pretend to regulate them, when such regulations are founded on false principles. Of this there is a recent example, which, being hardly of importance enough to enter into general history, may not improperly be recorded here.

Many persons now alive must remember with what a fit of zeal and hypocrisy, (for they were mingled), the minds of great numbers were seized, when the tragedy of Douglas was first acted in Edinburgh, in December 1756. That play is now of the most established reputation, and is justly and universally admired as one of the most excellent compositions in the English language. On occasion of its first appearance on the theatre, a few clergymen, about seven or eight who were particular friends of the author, in order to give him countenance, once or twice attended the representation of it, a practice at that time not prevalent, though not altogether unusual. Such a storm was instantly raised against those clergymen, that one would have thought that religion and morals had then received a mortal blow, although plays had been frequented for a long period in Edinburgh, by many people of the most unexceptionable characters, without animadversion of any kind; and though several of the most eminent clergymen were well known to have attended the theatre, when occasionally in London.

The presbytery of Edinburgh and the presbytery of Glasgow met again and again on the subject; wrote warm letters to the several presbyteries, to whom any of the offending clergymen belonged, insisting on their proceeding against them, and bringing them to condign punishment; emitted admonitions and exhortations against the offensive practice, and ordered them to be read in all the churches within their bounds. In every instance, however, except two, one of which was carried as far as the Supreme Court, and of which the issue is to be seen in the magazines of that

Prices of Proviſions, &c.—The prices of proviſions here are entirely regulated by the rates at Edinburgh, with which there

that time, the offence was done away in the moſt private manner by the ſeveral preſbyteries who had been wrote to. But even the General Aſſembly was induced to make a declaratory act againſt the ſtage, enjoining all preſbyteries to *take care that none of the miniſters of this church do upon any occaſion attend the theatre.* In ſhort, the country was excited into a flame on this trifling occaſion, though not quite ſo ſtrong and extenſive, yet ſimilar to that which was raiſed 23 years afterwards in oppoſition to the Popiſh bill.

This violent exploſion of zeal, which certainly does no honour to the annals of the church, was not wholly owing to the offence taken by ſome well meaning people. It was well known that ſome ſhare of political enmity was added to it, which ſerved to blend parties together in a manner theretofore unknown on ſo ſlight an occaſion. The ſpirit of eccleſiaſtical faction likewiſe mingled deeply in it, and contributed to increaſe the clamour, in order to fix a ſtigma on certain clergymen, who were looked upon with a jealous eye, by ſome who then acted as leaders of the church.

But what was the ſequel? The plans of eccleſiaſtical intrigue were unveiled, and ſunk into contempt. The courſe of public ſentiment and manners becoming gradually more liberal, proved too ſtrong for ſuch narrow and bigotted principles. Mr John Home, the author of the tragedy in queſtion, the ſuperior merit of which was already generally acknowledged, having new views opened up to him, demitted his charge in the month of June 1757, and withdrew from the church without the leaſt animadverſion on his conduct. In a few years clergymen from many different parts of the country, as well as ſome in town, occaſionally attended the theatre, and ſeveral of the moſt reſpectable miniſters continue to do ſo, not only without any cenſure from the church, but without any ſort of offence being given or taken.

It is well known, that the clergy of no Chriſtian country in the world are in general more blameleſs in their morals, and leſs reprehenſible in their conduct, than thoſe of the Church of Scotland; and while they are not

there is an almoſt hourly communication. The fiſhwives will rather take their chance of a market in that city, than ſell their fiſh at a reaſonable price here; inſomuch, that the people of this pariſh are chiefly ſupplied by women from Preſtonpans, who are too diſtant to go and return with their burdens daily to Edinburgh; and who, when they have not fiſh from their own boats, are glad to purchaſe them when they can get them at Fiſherrow, and diſtribute them among the opulent families here. Notwithſtanding all this, fiſh was long a cheap article here, till the demand at Edinburgh increaſed, and the haddocks left our coaſts about ſix or ſeven years ago. Fortunately they have again returned in ſmall numbers about the time of drawing up this account, namely in June 1793. The only article we have cheaper than at Edinburgh is coals, which is owing to our vicinity to the pits; and the only articles we have, perhaps, of better quality, are the produce of the garden and bread. This laſt advantage we owe to our lying between Edinburgh, and the beſt wheat farms in Eaſt Lothian, from whence our bakers are ſupplied. The bakers here, about 50 or 60 years ago, more than half furniſhed Edinburgh and Leith with wheat bread, and ſtill continue to vend a conſiderable quantity there, notwithſtanding their paying higher mill dues than are paid any where elſe; but they have cheaper houſes and firing than can be had in the city, which more than compenſates them for the high price of mealing. It muſt be obſerved, however,

not likely to abuſe ſuch a privilege, it may well be preſumed that occaſional acceſs to the theatre, eſpecially when the moſt eminent actors have appeared, has contributed to improve their ſtyle and pronunciation, and to baniſh from the pulpit that ruſtic vulgarity with which it was once reproached.

ever, that a conſiderable quantity of Edinburgh bread is alſo vended here. The neceſſaries of life are no doubt much dearer than they were thirty or forty years ago, but the wages of labour have increaſed in a much greater proportion. For 12 years preceding 1760, the price of beef here by agreement was 2½ d. for one half of the year, and 3 d. for the other half. It is now at the rate of 3½ d. and 4 d. But the wages of labour have, in moſt caſes, been more than doubled ſince that period; ſo that the inferior claſſes, who ſubſiſt by their labour, and are underſtood chiefly to uſe the neceſſaries of life, and not its luxuries, have no ground of complaint. On the contrary, their condition is much improved, eſpecially as the taxes do not extend to many articles of their conſumption. Soap, candles, and leather are the only neceſſaries that are taxed which are within their reach. If they *will* have whiſky, it is fit they ſhould pay for it. Malt liquor is ſtill very cheap, *viz.* 1½ d. *per* pint, or 2 Engliſh quarts, though it muſt be owned, it is inferior in quality to what it formerly was, on account of the high price of barley; which, it is to be hoped, may not be of long continuance, as the firſt very good crop may reduce it as much as was done in the year 1779.

If any claſs of men have ground of complaint amidſt the high proſperity of their country, it is thoſe of ranks ſuperior to the labourers and artiſans, who, having fixed ſalaries, or unimprovable livings, cannot now afford to live as they have formerly done; many articles for the table, beſides butcher's meat, which has been raiſed above one fourth, having been doubled or tripled within theſe 40 years. But ſtill it is more owing to the change in the modes of living, than to the increaſed price of proviſions, that difficulties are incurred; for this creates a neceſſity of its

its kind. How few have philoſophy or fortitude enough to live in a ſtyle inferior to their neighbours and equals! When all are equally poor, none but ſpendthrifts are ever in diſtreſs. As the wages of labour are more than doubled, the manner of living is entirely changed. Until about the year 1760, the working people uſed no bread but oat cakes. Since that time, however, the uſe of wheaten bread has been increaſing; and now, bread made of oat meal is not to be met with, but in houſes of gentlemen as a rarity. At the period before mentioned, working people uſed little meat but ſalted mutton in winter. Salt herrings too made great part of their *kitchen, (opſonium)*, a word that here ſignifies whatever gives a reliſh to bread or *porridge;* the laſt of which is not yet in diſuſe, but ſtill continues, with milk or ale, to make the breakfaſts and ſuppers of children and apprentices. Through the year freſh or new killed beef is now ſubſtituted for ſalted.

Markets.—There is a market for butcher's meat in Muſſelburgh every Friday, and one in Fiſherrow every Tueſday. There is a much greater number of animals killed here, than are conſumed in the pariſh, to the amount of ſome hundreds of ſheep weekly in the ſeaſon, and a proportional number of black cattle, lambs, calves, and hogs. But they are chiefly for the ſupply of the markets of Edinburgh and Leith, which are frequented by our butchers. From this it may be inferred, that our proviſions are equally good with theirs, excepting ſome choice beaſts that muſt fall to the ſhare of the Edinburgh butchers. Veal too muſt be excepted, which is rarely good here, and has lately degenerated. Our pork, which is chiefly purchaſed from the farmers of Eaſt Lothian, is remarkably fine; and our lamb is ſuperior in quality, as the butchers have incloſures at hand, in which they are kept till they are wanted.

Poor,

Poor *.—Since the year 1781, the poor of this pariſh have been penſioned in their own houſes. Their number is

* Soon after the preſent incumbent was ſettled in this pariſh, the heritors and other principal inhabitants, with the laudable deſign of providing better for their poor, eſpecially aged perſons and children, erected and furniſhed a poors-houſe, or work-houſe, at very conſiderable expence, which was ready for the reception of the poor at Whitſunday 1752. The beſt rules of management that could be deviſed or collected were ordained, and the houſe went on for many years, to the comfort of the poor, and the ſatisfaction of all concerned. An additional expence, as was expected, beſides the building, was incurred for the maintenance of the poor, and an aſſeſſment was laid on the heritors that year for the firſt time. The object then being not the moſt parſimonious plan of proviſion for the poor, but their comfortable ſubſiſtence, and the preſervation of the young among them, from idleneſs and profligacy: The arguments ariſing from *the danger*, by means of ſuch inſtitutions, of *erazing the ſenſe of ſhame* of dependence on the poors funds from the minds of the indigent, or of *blunting the feelings of compaſſion* in the hearts of their relations, did not occur; or if they had, would have been conſidered as the ſuggeſtions of *avarice*, in no reſpect applicable to the ſtate of this pariſh. The aſſeſſment was continued; and as the towns were populous, it was thought no more than juſtice that they ſhould contribute their ſhare. They accordingly were aſſeſſed of a certain ſum by the annual meeting of heritors and elders, which was proportioned among them by a large committee of the inhabitants appointed by the meeting. By this means thoſe who frequented any of the meeting-houſes, or abſented altogether from public worſhip, were made to contribute their ſhare, as well as thoſe who regularly attended the Eſtabliſhed Church, and paid both by their collections and by aſſeſſment.

At the end of 30 years, many difficulties having occurred from the backwardneſs of ſome to pay their aſſeſſments, and a conſtant intrigue among the inhabitants about furniſhing neceſſaries, or employing the poor, the moſt diſintereſted among the managers became heartily tired of the buſineſs. Add to this, that the houſe and furniture came now to need a thorough repair, which could not have coſt leſs than L. 300 Sterling; all which, together with an opinion, that the poor could be maintained cheaper in their own houſes than in the poors-houſe, induced the heritors, and all concerned, after two years deliberation, to ſell the houſe, and add the price to the poor's funds, which was accordingly done in the year 1781.

is about 110, none of whom are allowed more than 1 s. *per* week, and ſome have only 6 d *. an allowance ſo ſcanty, as leaves them but in a very wretched ſtate, when they are entirely paſt their induſtry: and were it not for private charities, or ſubſidiary funds, muſt be wholly inſufficient to ſupport nature. The ſum laid on for the ſupport of the poor has for ſome time been L. 215, of which above L. 65 is paid from the collections; which have fallen ſo much ſhort of the deburſements on account of bad payments, and controverſies that have ariſen, that the heritors and ſeſſion have been obliged to encroach on the price they received for the poors-houſe. Of late years it has been thought proper to follow the directions formerly given by the Sheriff of the county, and to lay on the aſſeſſment for the poor, according to a rental of all property in the pariſh, as the moſt certain and equal rule † by which to levy the poor's funds. Various difficulties

* For eight or ten years after the houſe was firſt occupied by the poor, they were maintained at the very cheap rate of 1 s. 2½ d. *per* week a-piece.

† It is remarkable, that not a few of the clergy in their Statiſtical Accounts, exclaim againſt the change, that of late years has been made in many pariſhes, in their method of maintaining the poor, which has not been entirely by collections at the church doors, as formerly, but partly by aſſeſſments, and thence take occaſion to warn their country againſt *poors rates* as a heavy burden, that even England is not able to bear. But theſe writers do not ſeem to have ſufficiently attended to the alterations in the ſtate of the country in general, and of many pariſhes in particular, within this half century. They ſeem not to have adverted to it, that the poor have increaſed, and that the weekly collections have been diminiſhed, for various reaſons, in many pariſhes during that period, while the expence of maintaining any poor perſon has neceſſarily increaſed, with the increaſed prices of labour, and the neceſſaries of life.

It cannot be denied, that where the collections are ſufficient for the purpoſe, there is no plan for the maintenance of the poor that can be compared

difficulties having occurred, reſpecting the nature of the property liable to the payment of theſe aſſeſſments, particularly

pared to it, either in reſpect to the nature of the fund, or the purity of its management. But where they are inſufficient, recourſe muſt be had to aſſeſſments, or *poors-rates*, as they are frequently called, *per invidiam*; becauſe that is a term that ought to occaſion no ſmall alarm, though in very material reſpects, they are entirely different from the tax of that name in England *. Thoſe aſſeſſments, when recourſe muſt be had to them, ought in juſtice and common ſenſe to be as equally and fairly laid on as poſſible. In country pariſhes, where there are no other inhabitants, but landholders and their tenants and cottagers, when the collections are inſufficient, the burden muſt fall upon the land, that is, on the heritors and their tenants, becauſe the cottagers are unable to pay. But in large towns ſuch as this, where the rents of houſes and other rentable property are equal to that of the land rent, it would be quite unreaſonable and unjuſt to throw the whole burden on the land; and no rule ſeems to be more equal than the rental, deducing a fourth for repairs, and always exempting the houſes below a certain ſum, to vary according to the circumſtances of the place. I know few ſubjects, that more deſerve the attention of all men of property of this country, landed or otherwiſe, than the maintenance of the poor. At preſent, when they are paſt their labour, they are wretchedly ill ſupported in towns, though nothing can be laid to the charge of the adminiſtrators for the poor, who manage their ſcanty funds with the utmoſt frugality. Were it not for the great number of ſocieties in this, and in other pariſhes of like deſcription, who, by means of weekly ſubſcriptions of ſmall ſums, raiſe a fund for aid to their members, when they are laid off their work by ſickneſs, or for annuities to their widows after their deceaſe, the poor would become a much heavier load on the opulent than they are at preſent.

There are many uſeful hints and obſervations on this ſubject in the different Statiſtical Accounts; and none, that the writer of this article has obſerved, better than thoſe that are to be found in the account of the pariſh of *Portmoak*, (vol. 5. p. 156). It muſt be obſerved, however, that the author, after having ſtated the diſadvantages that ariſe from a legal proviſion, immediately propoſes to have the ſubſcriptions of ſocieties authoriſed by law, which ſeems to be making them liable to thoſe very diſadvantages which he had juſt ſtated. For the method he approves of ſeems little different from

* *See Statiſtical Account of Alloa, vol. 8. No. 40.*

cularly whether *mills* and *coal rents* were legally ſubject to them, law-ſuits have been carried on, which ſtill remain undecided at the end of five years. This proves either that the laws on the ſubject are very defective, or that law procedure is more dilatory than could have been expected, in matters that relate to the police of the country.—Notwithſtanding the difficulty there is in providing for the ordinary poor, it muſt be owned, that perſons of condition in this pariſh, (not to mention the family of the patron, which reſides half the year in the neighbourhood, and is a never-failing ſource of beneficence to all proper objects), are always ready to relieve the wants of the indigent, who are not on the ordinary roll.

Advantages.—The pariſh of Invereſk has every advantage in point of air and climate, that is to be found in any ſituation ſo far north. It is pleaſant and healthy, and none but

from that eſtabliſhed here, *viz.* an aſſeſſment on all the inhabitants, except the pooreſt claſs, by a rental; excepting only in this, that it is not under the authorlty of law. The one is hitherto voluntary, and the other is not. But experience teaches us, that no contribution remains long juſt and equal, that is *voluntary*. Perhaps it may be wiſe, in many caſes, to give up the former, for the ſake of the greater energy of the latter. What the writer hereof would humbly ſuggeſt to the leading people of this country is, a well-digeſted poors law; and in the mean time, he would earneſtly call the attention of reſiding heritors to the care of the poor, who ſhould have two objects conſtantly in their eye, 1ſt, A comfortable proviſion for ſuch as are paſt their labour, and for children; and 2dly, Good economy, and the moſt equal and impartial method of raiſing the funds. Where the Sundays collections are ſufficient, nothing can be ſuperadded to the care and vigilance, the diſintereſtedneſs and frugality of the elders of the reſpective pariſhes, but a little more inſpection and encouragement than is uſual on the part of the heritors.

N. B. There has an act of Parliament paſſed in July 1793, putting all the charitable ſocieties who chuſe to accept of it under legal protection which extends to Scotland.

but thoſe who are diſpoſed to be idle can want employment. Their ſubſerviency to the city of Edinburgh for many neceſſary articles furniſhes conſtant buſineſs to the induſtrious, and a ready market for every thing they carry there. As there are no great manufactories eſtabliſhed in the pariſh, there is no ſudden fluctuation between riches and poverty, and conſequently no great hopes or fears are excited; and no great riſks are run in the humble, but ſteady and ſafe employments, in which the bulk of the people are engaged. They are in general contented and unambitious, and would always be ſo, did not their conſtant intercourſe with the capital, which is of ſo much advantage to them in other reſpects, expoſe them to the falſe arts of indefatigable ſeducers, who, under pretence of *Reform*, wiſh to *ſubvert* the preſent happy government, and introduce democratical anarchy in its ſtead. They have all the pleaſures of an extenſive ſociety, and of a conſtant intercourſe with ſtrangers, which has the effect of exciting ſocial affections, and introducing urbanity among them. Being the inhabitants of a very ancient burgh, and many poſſeſſors of tenements having enjoyed them from father to ſon for hundreds of years, there is a kind of *nobleſſe*, ſo to call them, among the burghers, who think themſelves entitled to more reſpect than the reſt, and who often deſerve and obtain it. Add to this, that here may be learned all the neceſſary arts or trades, and likewiſe the rudiments of a liberal education, to qualify the youth of both ſexes for the ſeveral lines of life in which they may be engaged, at leſs expence, and with leſs danger of the infection of bad company and example than in large cities.

Improvements.—Within the courſe of 40 years, their condition has been greatly improved, as has been mentioned already,

already, and could be pointed out in many more inſtances. One other article needs only be mentioned, which is the improvement of their houſes, that has taken place of late years. The materials for building are cheap and at hand, and the proprietors have rebuilt many of their old cottages, and made handſome and commodious dwellings for themſelves, with upper floors, to let for ſea-bathing, or for ſummer lodgings; which the inhabitants of the capital find very agreeable and convenient, as they are at ſo ſmall a diſtance from the ſcene of their buſineſs, and they can have the opportunity of going to town every day in one of the five ſtage-coaches eſtabliſhed here, or in thoſe that paſs from Preſton-Pans, Haddington, or Dunbar, from nine in the morning till two in the afternoon.

Diſadvantages.—There are few or no diſadvantages to which this place is liable, that are not common to many other burghs of the ſame deſcription, and which chiefly ariſe from a defective and careleſs police. This is owing to the magiſtrates being too much on a level with the other burghers, and too dependent on the good will of the populace for their livelihood, which checks their exertion of authority, and makes them timid in the execution of the laws *. There is one horrid nuiſance, which was formerly almoſt

* Above 30 years ago, there were a few independent gentlemen admitted to the council and magiſtracy, who gave a beginning to a ſtricter method of police, and who paid due attention to markets, and weights, and meaſures, and to the cleaning of the ſtreets and lanes, and the ſuppreſſion of vagrants, and who, notwithſtanding, preſerved their popularity with all ranks. Had their plans been followed out, this village, conſidering the great riſe in their revenue ſince that period, muſt have been the moſt commodious and inviting place to live in of any in Scotland. It is the more inconceivable in them, to preclude themſelves from the weight and energy of perſons of the above deſcription, that they have no political power, not being

almoſt entirely aboliſhed, which now prevails more than ever; that is, the killing animals in the ſtreets; a practice contrary to law, moſt unwholeſome, and highly offenſive. Conſidering that the place is ſo much reſorted to for education, it is not merely a ſhame; it is criminal, to ſuffer the youth to be daily ſhocked with, or hardened to the dying agonies of animals, and to be obliged to wade in filth and gore in paſſing along the ſtreets.—The ſtate of the *church* too is a great diſadvantage to the pariſh. Beſides its ruinous condition, it is too ſmall, and at too great a diſtance from the populous towns, which are almoſt four fifths of the whole. It has been obſerved, that this place had the advantage of an almoſt hourly communication with Edinburgh, by means of fiſhwives, carriers of all ſorts, and ſtage-coaches, which rendered the conveyance of letters both cheap and commodious. Of late, on pretence of ſerving the place, the General Poſt-office has extended a penny-poſt over us, which turns out a real grievance. Our correſpondents at Edinburgh pay a penny on putting in their letters, and we have three halfpence to pay when they are delivered here. It is not believed, that there is ſuch a piece of *extortion* in any part of Great Britain. In London, one penny is all that is exacted. This muſt appear doubly oppreſſive, when it is conſidered, that we are not allowed the benefit of our ſituation, 6 miles eaſtward on the poſt-road to London, but have our letters carried *paſt us* to Edinburgh, and *ſent back* at the additional charge of a penny *per* letter. This is a real grievance, that deſerves more attention than all the *imaginary* ones, that have of late been ſo loudly complained of.

Roads.

being a royal burgh; and therefore they *can*, or at leaſt *ought*, to have no other object, but the laying out of the revenue for the good of the community.

Roads.—The *roads*, too, in the pariſh are thought to be in a worſe ſtate than any in the county of Mid-Lothian, for which the magiſtrates are not to blame, as their ſtreet, which make ¼ths of a mile of the poſt road, are kept in very good order. Conſidering how largely the inhabitants of this pariſh contribute to the roads, by paying at the turnpike gates between this and Edinburgh and Leith, and that the very numerous carriages of the pariſh have for many years been under the direction of the county, this ſeems very unaccountable. The roads leading to the coal pits are kept in better order, which is of much advantage to the inhabitants, not merely for their own ſupply with fuel, but for the ſake of a great number of people, who earn their livelihood by the carriage of that article *. The pavement or cauſeway of the ſtreets is kept in tolerable good order; but the foot paths in wet weather are ſhamefully dirty, which is the more inexcuſable, as the town draws above L. 70 *per annum* for the dung of the ſtreets, which formerly were a charge to them. It may likewiſe be obſerved here, that too little attention is paid to the accommodation of trades people and labourers, who have occaſion to travel ſo frequently to the neighbouring town of Dalkeith. Forty years ago, when the fields were uninclоſed, the road to that town from Fiſherrow was a mile nearer than it is now. The road from Muſſelburgh has likewiſe been much lengthened by means of incloſures. The road is narrow, and the people who travel on foot are forced to go, for at leaſt a mile, in mud over the ſhoes, between two walls or hedges, or to break over the fences; a little attention, and a very ſmall expence, might rectify this.

Conſtitution.

* Since the above was written, the county have repaired the poſt road through the pariſh.

Conſtitution.—The ſame objections lie againſt the conſtitution of this burgh, as againſt many other burghs of Scotland, *viz.* that they are liable to an *oligarchy*, and that it is impracticable, as the law now ſtands, for the burgeſſes to obtain any redreſs for the miſmanagement of the public revenue; and they are attended with the ſame ill conſequences as in other burghs, *viz.* the diſcontent and bad humour of the inhabitants. It muſt be owned, that it is not probable, that the finances would be better managed in the hands of thoſe who complain, than in the hands of the preſent ſet; for, beſides that many of the grounds of complaint would be found to be imaginary, if enquired into, the corporation ſpirit is ſtrong enough to infect the new entrants as well as the old poſſeſſors. Ancient conſtitutions ought to be reſpected, and *innovations* are dangerous. All this is allowed; and it is farther granted, that a too popular or democratical government, is more tumultuous and hazardous than one in the contrary extreme; and that it is not improbable, that the experience of ſuch evils may have, in ancient times, been the reaſon for devolving ſo much power into the hands of the town-councils. Nevertheleſs, the circumſtances of the times, and the change in the ſtate of the burghs, might be attended to; and it may be wiſe in our legiſlators, at their leiſure, in times of tranquillity, to conſider whether or not, without incurring any of the above mentioned dangers, a plan ought not to be deviſed, for preventing at leaſt the excluſion of the principal citizens or burgeſſes in rotation, into the councils of their reſpective towns, and of putting an end to that oligarchy, or government of a few, which is apt to extinguiſh in the holders of it every idea but that of preſerving their own power; and obliges them, for this purpoſe, to elect into their body inſignificant people, or up-

ſtarts and ſtrangers, and to exclude the moſt wealthy and reſpectable of their burgeſſes. It is this narrow ſyſtem of municipal and political government, which is ſo irkſome to the inhabitants of many burghs in Scotland; which ſours their minds, and diſpoſes them to liſten with greedy ears to pretended plans of *reform* in the conſtitution, however remote their connection may be, with the redreſs of any real grievances they have to complain of.

And yet, after all, ſuch a change ought never to be attempted, till it has been calmly conſidered, whether or not ſuch an attempt may produce greater evils, than thoſe that are complained of. For when it is conſidered, that to promote the virtue and happineſs of the people is the object of Government, and that their liberty, both political and civil, is ſufficiently ſecured by the fundamental laws of the realm, without expoſing them to all the licenſe and debauchery of popular elections, a wiſe patriot will be patient under partial evils, and cautious in ſeconding plans of reform, which are not neceſſary to the ſecurity of freedom, and may tend to the corruption of the people.

Upon the whole, next to virtue and good morals, the comfortable ſtate of this community depends on the proſperity of the capital, with which it is ſo much connected, and on the diſintereſtedneſs and activity of its magiſtrates, in regulating the police, and laying out their funds in uſeful improvements.

NUMBER II.

PARISH OF HERIOT,

(COUNTY OF MID-LOTHIAN, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEEDDALE, PRESBYTERY OF DALKEITH.)

By the Rev. Mr ALEXANDER HUNTER, *Miniſter.*

Name, Form, Extent, and Surface.

THE name of this pariſh, from all we can learn, ſeems to have been always the ſame. It is uncertain, however, what gave riſe to it. Its figure is irregular. Its length from E. to W. is about 10 miles, and its breadth about 6. The ſurface is compoſed of ſome flat grounds on the N. E.; of ſome valleys on the ſides of the rivers *Heriot* and *Gala*, *&c.*; but moſtly of hills, inclining to mountains. The latter are covered with heath, ſometimes interſected with fields, which, after being a few years cropped, are ſown out, and afford pretty rich paſture for ſheep. It is ill-judged frugality, perhaps, in the farmer, not to ſow ſome red, or, at leaſt, ſome white clover, along with his rye-graſs, in theſe fields; this would both meliorate the land, and enrich the paſture.

Rivers.

Rivers.—The Heriot riſes at the weſt end of the pariſh. Enſum-cleugh in Dewar, Garwell punks, and Blackhope Scares are the ſuppoſed ſources. It flows eaſt, divides the pariſh into two, and then loſes itſelf in the water of Gala. The Gala riſes in the eaſt end of the pariſh, at a place called *Nettleflat Wells*, or *Whitelaw Well*, within the property of Mr Borthwick of Crookſtoun. It runs ſouth, paſſes Galaſhiells, and then diſembogues itſelf into the Tweed. Theſe rivers abound with trouts, which gentlemen come from all quarters to fiſh. It is much to be regretted, that the gentlemen in the neighbourhood permit poachers with nets to viſit theſe prolific rivers. A party of three or four will ſally out from Edinburgh, Dalkeith, *&c.* and in a ſhort ſpace fill their creel or bag, by ſweeping every thing before them. They exemplify the old proverb, "All is fiſh "that comes in the net." Even the ſalmon, in cloſe time, which come up to ſpawn, do not eſcape a dreadful maſſacre. During the autumnal months, and after a few weeks, the water is covered with lights, compoſed of old ſacks, or rags and tar; and the *liſter* *, as it is commonly called, is heard plunging in every hole.

Animals.—The quadrupeds are horſes, black cattle, ſheep, hogs, hares, and badgers. The birds are partridges, muirfowl, and plovers, *&c.* beſides the common domeſtic fowls.

Soil, Cultivation, and Produce.—The ſoil in general, except in the valleys, is thin and gravelly; it admits of a ſtimulus, ſuch as lime, and then is not a little productive. The farmers often ſay, "they have plenty of growth, if "they

* This is an inſtrument with a long ſhaft, having three or four iron toes at the end, barbed, with which the fiſh are killed.

"they had warmth of climate to bring it to maturity." It yields very good oats, bear, peas, and potatoes. Wheat has been attempted, but with very little ſucceſs. Within theſe very few years, turnips and artificial graſs have been cultivated, and they now obtain, as a part of our ſyſtem of farming; an improvement not more beneficial to the land, than lucrative to the huſbandman; the one prepares the ground for good bear, and the other for excellent oats.

Farms, Sheep, Wool, &c.—The farms are of various extent, from 50 to 1000 acres, and let at various rents, according to their quality and ſituation, from L. 40 to L. 200 Sterling. They are moſtly laid out in paſture. To this the farmer has a natural predilection, and cheerfully devotes his attention, care, and diligence. The ſheep are of conſiderable ſize, hardy, and thrive well. The farmers do not affect the Engliſh breed, neither do they wiſh to buy in new ſtock. Such as are bred on the ground they conſider as more durable, and leſs liable to diſeaſe. They bring good prices, from L. 10 to L. 14 Sterling, the ſcore; their wool from 8 s. to 10 s. the ſtone. Ewe cheeſe abounds here. This, for nine weeks, engroſſes almoſt the whole attention of the buſy houſe-wife and her maids. It is, perhaps, inferior to none in quality, cleanlineſs, and reliſh; and makes no ſmall additional income to the tenant. The average price, for ſome years paſt, has been about 7 s. the ſtone.

Population.—It is generally believed, that the population of this pariſh has decreaſed conſiderably within theſe 20 or 30 years. Led farms are ſaid to be the chief cauſe of this depopulation. True patriotiſm, and even an enlightened policy, according to our ideas, ſhould ſtimulate proprietors to check this pernicious practice. The inhabitants of the villages, ſuch as *Heriot-town, Chapel, &c.* are alſo diminiſhed,

niſhed, through the baneful operation of the above ſyſtem. The tenant having no uſe either for the houſes or the inhabitants, the former are ſuffered to tumble down into ruins, and the latter muſt go in queſt of employment ſomewhere elſe. Notwithſtanding theſe diſadvantages, however, which have doubtleſs reduced the number of the pariſhioners within theſe 20 or 30 years, it is a fact, that the population has increaſed conſiderably upon the whole, within theſe 40 years; for the number of ſouls at preſent (1794) in the pariſh amounts to - - 300
whereas the return to Dr Webſter in 1755, was only 209

Hence there is evidently an increaſe of - 91
The annual average of marriages, births, and deaths is about 4.

Religious Perſuaſions.—Of the above number, nearly the one half are Burgher Seceders. Part go to a meeting-houſe, (as the common phraſe is), at Stow, about 8 miles, and part to Fala about 6 miles diſtant.

Church.—The church is an old and infirm building. It is ſcarcely ſafe to perform public duty in it. It is neither dry above, nor decently ſeated. It is, perhaps, the moſt ſhabby and miſerable place of accommodation for divine ſervice in Scotland. The heritors, however, have juſt met and agreed to make ſome ſmall repairs upon it; among which there is to be a new bell, the old one being rent *. The manſe was in the ſame ruinous ſituation, but was rebuilt laſt year. Owing partly to the meaſures adopted by the heritors,

* On the old bell, there is this inſcription: "MARIA vocor. Ao. Dni. "MCCCCCXVIII JHONN. DAWIE." The kirk is perhaps older than this bell as above ſtated, but there is no legend, inſcription, or even tradition, to found an opinion upon.

heritors, and partly to the negligence or incapacity of the builders, it is ſuperficial to the laſt degree. Upon the leaſt blaſt, it draws water from every quarter, and overflows the rooms. This renders the houſe extremely damp, and conſequently dangerous to health. The ſtipend is exactly 1000 merks, including ſacramental elements. The glebe, about 14 Scotch acres, is partly arable, and partly fit for paſture. There is a proceſs for an augmentation going on. Sir John Dalrymple is patron.

Proprietors.—The heritors are 7 in number, *viz.* Lord Roſeberry, Sir John Dalrymple, Thomas Adinſton of Carcant, John Borthwick of Crookſtoun, George Cranſton of Dewar, Simon Fraſer of Ford, and Miſs Tait of Fala hill. None reſide in the pariſh.

School.—The ſchool-maſter's ſalary is 100 merks. The average number of ſcholars is 10. The ſmallneſs of the number is owing to the age and infirmity of the teacher, who is above 70 years of age; to his ignorance of the languages, and particularly to his want of a ſchool-houſe. He has only a ſmall cottage, and an area of about 8 feet by 16, taken off the end of it as his ſchool; and even this is crammed with tables, forms, and other houſehold ſtuff, as the ſchool-maſter has no place elſe to lodge them. This want of accommodation greatly affects the emoluments of the teacher, and the education of the youth of the pariſh. The fees for teaching to read Engliſh are 1 s., writing and arithmetic 1 s. 6 d. the quarter. He is alſo precentor, ſeſſion-clerk, beadle, grave-digger, and yet his whole income does not exceed L. 8 Sterling *per annum.* This, with the paltry accommodation, holds out little encouragement to a teacher of any merit. Indeed, no man who poſſeſſes ſtrength to lift a mattock, or to weild a flail, would

would accept of ſuch a diſgraceful pittance. In theſe times, when there is ſuch a general riſe in all the neceſſaries of life, what progreſs in learning or in ſcience is to be expected in any part of the kingdom, when that uſeful and neceſſary ſet of men are depreſſed by poverty?

Poor.—There are no poor in this pariſh, either in the roll, or as vagrant beggars. Economy, joined to induſtry, has placed thoſe of the inferior ranks above indigence. They attend diligently to their reſpective buſineſs, and reap the fruits of their own labours. Hence we may infer, that our public fund is increaſing; hence alſo, an aſſeſſment for the poor is unknown in this pariſh.

Occupations.—Beſides the farmers and their ſervants, there are in the pariſh:

Carpenters, -	2	Weavers, -	4
Smiths, - -	3	Maſon, - -	1
Tailors, - -	2	Miller, - -	1

Prices of Labour and Proviſions.—The wages of a day-labourer in huſbandry are 1 s. and often 1 s. 2 d. per day, without maintenance, and 8 d. and ſometimes 10 d. with it per day. A man's yearly wages are from L. 7 to L. 9 Sterling. Thoſe of a female ſervant from L. 3 to L. 4 Sterling. It is a circumſtance not unworthy of notice, perhaps, that ſhe draws only L. 1, 5 s. or L. 1, 10 s. for the winter half-year, and all the reſt, L. 2, 15 s. or even L. 3 Sterling, for the ſummer. The ſtore farmer is the occaſion of this. Such as keep two maids for the winter require 4 or 5 for the ſummer, in order to milk their ewes, cut down their crops, and hoe turnips. Hence the demand for ſervants is greater, and of courſe raiſes their wages. A maſon's wages are 1 s. 6 d. with maintenance,

or

or 2 s. without it; a carpenter's 1 s. 6 d. without, or 9 d. with it; a tailor's 8 d. with it, and all others in proportion. The prices of proviſions, ſince the year 1740, are doubled, and ſome tripled. Eggs, then 1½ d. and 2 d. the dozen, now ſell at 5 d. and 6 d. and often are not even to be got; hens, formerly 6 d. now draw 1 s. 2 d. and 1 s. 4 d.; butter, formerly 5 d. is now 9 d. 10 d. and 1 s. the pound; butcher meat, formerly 2½ d. now 4 d. and 5 d. per pound; cheeſe, formerly 3 s. or 4 s. the ſtone, is now 7 s. and 8 s.; coals, ſince the year 1790, have riſen from 8 d. to 1 s. 1 d. the tub, which contains 400 lb. Dutch weight. The grain of this pariſh is carried to Dalkeith market, (which is held weekly on Thurſday), and ſold for ready money. Oats bring from 12 s. to 18 s. Sterling *per* boll, and bear from 14 s. to L. 1.

Roads and Inns.—The roads in the pariſh are in a pretty good ſtate of repair, particularly the public or Gala-water road. This is one of the London roads. It comes from Edinburgh by Laſſwade, Cockpen, Middleton, Heriot, Bankhouſe, Selkirk, *&c.* Good roads are one ſtriking cauſe of the improvement of the country in this place. Heriot public houſe was the ancient ſtage from Edinburgh, and was much frequented. It is near 16 miles from Edinburgh. It belongs to Sir John Dalrymple, but is now deſerted by genteel and faſhionable company, in conſequence of the erection of two new inns at Middleton and Bank-houſe. There is another public houſe in the pariſh, called *Swarehouſe*, which is the property of Miſs Tait. There is one toll-bar near Heriot houſe, to the north. It is raiſed to 1½ d. a ſaddle horſe, 3 d. a ſingle, and 4½ d. a double cart.

Fuel, &c.—Coals, peats, and turfs, are uſed for fuel; the two latter abound in the pariſh, and the former is about 6 or 7 miles diſtant, *viz.* Stobhill, belonging to Mr Dun-

das of Arniſton, at preſent Lord Advocate. We have no manufactures here, which is very ſurpriſing, as we have abundance of water during the whole year for driving machinery; and the rather, as we are near coal, and have plenty of other fuel, as well as near market towns, ſuch as Edinburgh, Leith, Haddington, Lauder, Dalkeith, *&c.*

Antiquities.—There are in Carcant ſome veſtiges of houſes called *Shiels-Walls*; and on Roughſwyre ground, three *Charter Poles* in different places, but no ſatisfactory account of them can be obtained. There is on Heriot-town hill-head, a circle of high ſtones, 70 or 80 feet diameter; and on Borthwick-hall Mid-hill-head, there are 3 large rings, or deep ditches, about 100 paces diameter. Whether they were old encampments of the Romans, or of the Britons, Danes, Picts, and Scots, we ſhall not venture to determine; all tradition about them here is extinct. There is a circle on the ſide of the Gala road, near the Bridge, over the water of Heriot, and behind a weaver's cottage, belonging to the Abbey of Melroſe; to this place were driven horſes, cattle, ſheep, *&c.* when they were poinded or rouped for behoof of the creditor. On the march between this and the pariſh of Inverleithen, in the farm of Dewar, there is a grave, called *the Piper's Grave.* He was piper of Peebles *. The head and foot ſtones are viſible to this day. On Dewar Hill, not far from the above grave, there is a remarkable large ſtone, called *Lot's Wife:* the reaſon of this title is unknown. At a little diſtance from this, there is the *Wolf Cleuch*, of which a traditional ſtory † is aſſerted as truth. A little from the high

* The tradition is, that he engaged for a certain wager, to blow from Peebles to Lauder, at a certain number of blaſts; that he failed in the attempt, died there, and was buried on the ſpot.

† The tradition is, that this cleuch was inhabited by a wolf, which laid waſte the country around. It attacked and deſtroyed every paſſenger.

high road, and not far from Heriot public houſe, there is a ſtone, called *Mary Gib's*, from an unfortunate woman who was burnt upon this ſtone for a witch. The children, to this day, in going and coming from ſchool, affect to be afraid when they paſs by it.

Climate and Character.—The air in every part of the pariſh is ſalubrious; hence the inhabitants in general are very robuſt and healthy. Some live to a great age. One died lately, born in the laſt century, and the laſt miniſter was going 87. The people are induſtrious, and highly œconomical, ſober, peaceable, humane, and given to hoſpitality. Their dreſs is quite ſimple, and their manners plain and unaffected. They are regular in their attendance on divine ordinances. They are rather badly accommodated for houſes, which are ſhabby dirty huts. Although the pariſh is within two or three miles of lime at Middleton, they are ſtill built of turf and ſtone in regular ſucceſſion. The ſeats of our lairds are very little better.

Diſadvantages.—There is no planting or incloſures in this pariſh, except a cow park or two. This is certainly a great defect in agricultural improvement; beſides, it with-holds from the country a principal beauty; add to this, that the lands have no ſhelter, and even the very ſheep are ſo expoſed, as ſometimes to be overwhelmed and buried in the ſnow by ſcores. A farmer loſt about 12 ſcore this winter in one night. Such loſſes are the more ſerious, as ſheep are the ſtaple commodity of this pariſh. Two-horſe ploughs are all in uſe here; there is no ſuch thing as an ox

ger. A reward was offered, that the man who ſhould kill this beaſt ſhould have theſe lands. Accordingly, one had the courage to engage it, and ſucceeded. He called the lands by his own name, *Dewar*.

ox to be ſeen in the yoke. We would be cautious to pronounce this any real acquiſition to the farmer. A dead ox is better than a dead horſe, and a fat ox will ſell any where, when a fine horſe will ſcarce find a merchant. Beſides, they are cheaply maintained, and in general ſteady plowers. The riſe of farms for ſome years paſt has been conſiderable. This is partly owing to the odious practice of one farmer ſubſetting to another. There are lands in the barony of Sir John Dalrymple *ſub-ſub-ſubſet*; the conſequence is, the original tackſman is a kind of ſecond *laird*, and the laſt is oppreſſed with anxiety and toil to make up his rent. Farmers who enjoy the right of ſubſetting are the moſt exorbitant in their claims. Ye noblemen and gentlemen, proprietors of land, ſpeedily aboliſh ſub-ſets and led farms; the poor will bleſs you, and poſterity unborn will riſe up and proclaim your patriotic virtues!

NUM-

NUMBER III.

PARISH OF CASTLETOWN,

(COUNTY OF ROXBURGH, PRESBYTERY OF LANGHOLM, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.)

By the Rev. Mr JAMES ARKLE, *Miniſter.*

Origin of the Names.

THE origin of the modern, as well as of the ancient name of this pariſh, is abundantly plain. Upon the ſummit of a precipice, about 100 feet perpendicular, on the eaſt bank of the river Liddal, and immediately above the church, there was a ſtrong fort or caſtle, the rampart and foſſeè of which remain entire: near to theſe, in the place where the preſent road was formed, and in ſeveral other parts in the immediate neighbourhood, many hearth-ſtones were dug up, where a town or village had formerly ſtood. Hence the name of *Caſtle-town.* But the ancient name of this diſtrict, and indeed that by which it is ſtill moſt frequently denominated, was *Liddiſdale,* from the river Liddal, which runs through it in a direction from eaſt to ſouth. In the ancient hiſtories, and geographical accounts of Scotland, it is called the county of Liddiſdale, and in old writs it is deſigned the *Lordſhip* of that name.

Erection,

Erection, Form, and Extent.—This pariſh formerly belonged to the Preſbytery of Jedburgh; but when the five churches of Eſkdale were erected into the Preſbytery of Langholm, it was added to them in the year 1743. This was done on account of its great diſtance from the former ſeat of the preſbytery. Its form approaches nearly to that of a triangle, whoſe baſe runs from eaſt to weſt. along the head of Teviotdale, and whoſe oppoſite vertex points to Solway frith. It contains, according to the map of the county, about 52,160 acres. It is the largeſt pariſh in the ſouth of Scotland, being upwards of 18 miles in length, and 14 in breadth.

General Appearance, Woods, &c.—The general appearance of the upper part of the pariſh is mountainous; the lower part is hilly; and all of it, at a diſtance from the banks of the rivers, is bleak and wild to a high degree. But its appearance along the banks of the rivers is altogether different. Theſe are generally covered with natural woods, or young plantations in a very thriving ſtate. The barren wilds are entirely hid from the view; the windings of the river, and the fine holm land on every ſide, preſent the moſt pictureſque ſcenes, or exhibit rich proſpects to the eye. Theſe are juſtly deſcribed by our native poet, Dr Armſtrong, in his poem on Health *. The inhabited part

* ——————— Such the ſtream,
On whoſe Arcadian banks I firſt drew air.
Liddal, till now, except in Doric lays,
Tun'd to her murmurs by her love-ſick ſwains,
Unknown in ſong; though not a purer ſtream
Through meads more flow'ry,—more romantic groves,
Rolls toward the weſtern main. Hail ſacred flood!
May ſtill thy hoſpitable ſwains be bleſt
In rural innocence; thy mountains ſtill
Teem with the fleecy race; thy tuneful woods
For ever flouriſh, and thy vales look gay,
With painted meadows, and the golden grain! Book III.

of the pariſh conſiſts of two vallies. That along the Hermitage is about ten miles in length, from the ſource of the river to the point where it loſes its name in the Liddal. At the head of this river the country is entirely mountainous. The mountains are very high and ſteep, but are generally dry, and afford excellent ſheep paſture. The greateſt part of this ſtream is fringed with natural wood; it poſſeſſes much rural beauty, and exhibits the paſtoral ſcenes of life in great perfection. The other valley, or ſtrath, is that along the ſides of the Liddal. Near the head of the pariſh on the eaſt, the rivers Liddal and Tyne, which runs by Newcaſtle, take their riſe, in the midſt of an immenſe bog, ſurrounded by mountains. This place is very properly named *Dead water*, becauſe for a conſiderable ſpace neither of them can be traced as a running ſtream. The Tyne winds ſlowly to the eaſt, between the bleak mountains and the dreary waſtes of Northumberland, by *Keelder Caſtle* *. The Liddal runs due weſt for a few miles, and then runs due ſouth. This part of the country is mountainous, high, cold and moiſt, and lies under the thick and ſolitary gloom of continual fogs. For ten miles down the river its banks are entirely naked; the hills on each ſide produce a great quantity of graſs. At the point where it is joined by the Hermitage the banks are covered with trees. On the north ſide the thriving plantations of the Duke of Buccleugh, and on the ſouth the plantations and woods of Mr Elliot of Whitehaugh, near the confluence of the rivers, form a landſcape highly beautiful. Here the valley widens conſiderably, and improvements are every where ſeen. From this hill you reach the confines of Canonby; the ride is very much admired by travellers. The new town riſing in view, and building upon an elegant

* Keelder Caſtle is a hunting ſeat of the Duke of Northumberland.

gant plan; the ſemicircular groves of trees, and the fertile fields, and windings of the river Liddal, contribute their various beauties to delight the eye.

Mountains.—The principal mountains are Tudhope, Millenwood-fell, Windhead, Greatmoor, Dun, Dod, Hermitage, Peel-fell, Roan-fell, Lariſton-fell, Carby-Laws, and Tinnis hills. The laſt mentioned is ſeen as a land mark at a great diſtance out at ſea. None of theſe mountains have been meaſured by the barometer. But when Mr Stobie ſurveyed the county, he meaſured thoſe of the Cheviot, Cartawiſp, *&c.* and when on the top of the higheſt in this pariſh, he compared them with others by the Theodolite; by this it appears Tudhope is 1830 feet above the level of the ſea. Millenwood-fell and Windhead are about 2000 feet. Theſe are the higheſt of them.

Rivers and Fiſh.—The rivers are the Liddal, the Hermitage, the Tweeden, the Kerſhope, (which divides the two kingdoms), the Tinnis and the Blackburn; with ſeveral other ſtreams of inferior note. All of them are plentifully ſtored with trouts, and afford excellent ſport to the angler.

Climate and Longevity.—The climate is very damp, owing to two cauſes. From its proximity to the Atlantic Ocean, a great collection of vapour ariſes, which is attracted by the mountains, and poured down in torrents of rain. The other is owing to the nature of the ſoil and ſurface of the hills themſelves. They are generally covered to the very ſummit with a deep ſtratum of moſs, which retains the moiſture; under the moſs lies a bed of till, through which the water cannot eaſily penetrate. Notwithſtanding the dampneſs of the air, thoſe who are bred in the country enjoy good health, and many of them have arrived at a great

great age. An inſtance occurs of one Mr ELLIOT of Redheugh, who lately, at the age of 86, rode 50 miles in one day, without any inconvenience, tranſacted buſineſs at a public market, and returned to his houſe next evening, without ſleep. One man now alive, JAMES LILLICO, married his third wife at 72, is now upwards of 93, enjoys good health, and manages his ordinary buſineſs; another, at the age of 80, is in full vigour, and frequently walks to Edinburgh. A woman, named Margaret Wyllie, died a few years ago at the age of 113, in the poſſeſſion of all her faculties till the day of her death.

Diſeaſes.—The ſcrophula prevails frequently among the young, and rheumatic and ſtomach complaints among thoſe more advanced in life. Inoculation is general. Laſt ſpring a great number of children, ſome men, and women the mothers of children, were inoculated, and all of them did well. At preſent the ſmall-pox rages in the natural way, and has carried off many. Prejudices ſtill remain againſt inoculation, chiefly among the Seceders. Conſumptions are frequent. Epidemic fevers ſometimes viſit us, but are ſeldom fatal.

Sheep, Wool, &c.—The rents of the pariſh ariſe chiefly from ſheep, black cattle and horſes, and from tillage. The ſheep are of the long kind; there are no ſhort ſheep in the country. The breed of ſheep has been very much improved of late years, by ſeveral individuals, who have purchaſed rams from the eaſtern borders. The moſt intelligent obſerve, that croſſing the breed is not only the beſt method of improving the ſheep and wool, but alſo of preventing the diſeaſes to which they are liable. By continuing the ſame ram, the ſheep are weakened, and diſeaſes multiplied, or rendered more inveterate; by changing him, it

it is found that the *ſturdy*, and other diſeaſes, are leſs frequent. The diſorders moſt prevalent are, the ſturdy, the ſickneſs, the louping ill, the rot, and the braxy. Wedders and draught ewes are ſold to dealers from Yorkſhire. The wool is ſold for clothing to the manufacturing towns in England. Laſt year it ſold at from 15 s. to 19 s. the ſtone; this ſeaſon from 11 s. to 15 s. The decreaſe is owing no doubt to the ſtagnation of commerce. Moſt of the farms are ſeparated from each other by ſtone dikes; but even where they are not, the flocks are permitted to wander at large in their reſpective paſtures. They are never confined in hirſels, nor in folds by night; they ſeek their food at large, and they know beſt where it is to be found. They are all over-laid with tar; ſome uſe palm oil in place of butter, and approve of it. The ſheep are carefully waſhed before ſhearing. The practice of milking the ewes is very much diſcontinued; where it is continued, it is only for a ſhort time. It weakens the ſheep, and renders them leſs able to endure the ſeverity of the winter. Every farmer provides a conſiderable quantity of hay againſt the ſtorm, and when neceſſary, feeds regularly. Before this method was adopted, much loſs was frequently ſuſtained in ſtormy ſeaſons.

Black Cattle.—Some farmers bring a conſiderable number of black cattle from the markets of Falkirk, Crieff, and Down. They are ſupported during the winter by the foggage and coarſe hay, and ſold in the ſpring; or fed in good paſture through the ſummer, and ſold fat about Martinmas; kyloes at from L. 3 to L. 5 Sterling. Thoſe bred in the country are of the Dutch, Lancaſter, or Galloway kinds. The large kind ſell at from L. 6 to L. 9 Sterling. Their paſture is generally coarſe, excepting what lies upon lime-ſtone, which is very fine, but the produce is always very great. The butter which is made, even on the coarſeſt paſture, is

not excelled by any in Britain. It is commonly obſerved, that the coarſer the paſture is, the butter is the better and the richer. Even the moſſy ground, though in appearance barren, is of great uſe both for black cattle and ſheep. The plant, called *the moſs*, riſes before any other in the ſpring, affords excellent nouriſhment, and is carefully ſought after by the flocks. In theſe coarſe lands, there is a conſtant and regular ſucceſſion of different ſpecies of graſs, which riſe in their reſpective ſeaſons throughout the year.

Soil, Produce, and Cultivation.—The arable land at preſent in tillage lies chiefly on the banks of the rivers. Many hundred acres, formerly in tillage, are thrown into paſture on account of the high prices of ſheep and wool. The ſoil of the holm land is excellent. It is ſometimes of a light, but moſt frequently of a very deep and fine loam, and where it is properly cultivated, it produces exceeding good crops. Wheat has been ſown, and turned out very well. The ordinary crops are barley, or rough bear, peaſe, oats, flax, potatoes. Turnips have lately been introduced, and ſucceeded very well. Laſt ſummer, travellers from Edinburgh ſaw no turnips by the way equal to thoſe on the fields in this place. Within theſe few years, a conſiderable quantity of graſs ſeeds have been ſown, and have produced excellent crops. From the nature of the holm land, and ſituation of the country, turnips, barley, and graſs ſeeds, ſucceeded by early oats, will probably be found the beſt rotation.—The ploughs in uſe are, the Engliſh plough, and Small's chain plough. The former, drawn by 4 horſes, is ſtill uſed by ſome farmers, though, from the nature of the land, there can be no doubt that Small's chain plough, with two horſes, would execute the work, and anſwer the purpoſe much better. The ridges are made very narrow, and

conſiſt

conſiſt of 8 furrows *. One farmer uſes a pair of oxen with Small's plough, and approves of them.

Seaſons.—Though the hills are moiſt, yet from the reflection of the ſun from each ſide of the valley, and its favourable expoſure in the ſummer, the weather is very warm, and the harveſts are early. As ſoon as vegetation commences in the ſpring, it ſhoots forth with wonderful vigour and with great rapidity, and the ordinary productions of the garden arrive at great perfection. Our harveſts are much more early than in Canonby, or even part of Cumberland, though both of which countries lie to the ſouth of Caſtletown Oats and peaſe are ſown in March and April; barley in the end of April or beginning of May, and they are all reaped in September.

Population.—The population of this pariſh has decreaſed a little within theſe 40 years, as appears from the following table. This decreaſe is eaſily accounted for, by ſeveral farms, formerly let to different tenants, being now poſſeſſed

* The whole of the holm land along the banks of the river appears formerly to have been covered with wood, and the ſides of the hills to have been almoſt entirely in cultivation; the furrows and ridges are plain and evident. But at this period, to ſow corn on thoſe places, or to expect a crop, would be equally vain. What is the cauſe of this change? When the vallies were covered with wood to a certain height, were the ſides of the hills more warm? Were the ſeaſons themſelves then more kindly, as tradition poſitively affirms? Or were the inhabitants obliged to cultivate the high grounds, when the lower were covered with wood? About the middle of the hills, on each ſide the river Liddal, a deep ditch, or a ſtrong wall, appears to have been drawn almoſt the whole length of the country, beneath which lay the arable ground, where the old furrows and ridges appear, and all above was either for paſture or common. In thoſe days every kind of fence was neceſſary not only from beaſts of the field, but alſo from the inroads of the plunderer.

ſeſſed by one, and not a few by perſons, who do not reſide in, or belong to the pariſh at all.

STATISTICAL TABLE OF THE PARISH OF CASTLETOWN.

Number of ſouls, in 1755, as returned to Dr Webſter,	-	-	-	1507
Ditto in December 1793,	Males, 666 / Females, 752		In all,	1418
Majority of females,			86 Decreaſe,	89
Number of inhabitants in the new village,				70

	Marriages *.	Baptiſms *.
In the year 1709, - -	4	38
——————1710, - -	7	50
From 1749 to 1774, - -		464
From 1763 to 1770, -	43	

AGES.

* With regard to marriages and baptiſms, the pariſh regiſter is very imperfect. Several books have been loſt, which make blanks of conſiderable periods. There is a minute inſerted in the ſeſſion records, of date 17th January 1649, which mentions, "That the Engliſh army, commanded by Colonels Bright and Pride, and under the conduct of General Cromwell, on their return to England, did lie at the kirk of Caſtletown ſeveral nights, in which time they brake down and burnt the communion tables, and the ſeats of the kirk; and at their removing, carried away the miniſter's books to the value of 1000 marks and above, and alſo the books of ſeſſion, with which they lighted their tobacco pipes, the baptiſm, marriage, and examination rolls, from October 1612 to September 1648, all which were loſt and deſtroyed." From the accuracy with which this record had been kept, the loſs of it is very much to be regretted. If we may form any judgment from the number of churches and chapels in the pariſh at that time, with the burying grounds, and alſo from the ruins of many houſes and villages, the number of the inhabitants muſt have been much greater at that period than at preſent. No account of the burials can now be given, becauſe there are three burying grounds ſtill uſed, and a mortcloth, the property of private individuals, and not belonging to the kirk-ſeſſion.

Ages.

No. of ſouls under 10 years of age, -	342	Between 50 and 70,	234
— Between 10 and 20,	280	——— 70 and 80,	31
——— 20 and 50,	516	——— 80 and 90,	14
		——— 90 and 100,	1

Conditions and Professions.

No. of Heritors, reſident,	4	No. of ſmiths,	5
——— Ditto occaſionally,	3	——— maſons,	12
——— Ditto non-reſident,	4	——— joiners,	14
——— farmers, -	46	——— weavers,	16
——— ſhop-keepers,	9	——— ſhoe-makers,	8
——— ſurgeons, -	1	——— cloggers,	3
——— ſtudents at the Univerſity, -	2	——— tailors, -	13
——— clergymen, -	2	——— millers,	3
——— ſchool-maſters,	3	——— bakers,	4
——— innkeepers,	3	——— poor on the roll, -	74

Farms and Rents.

Number of led farms *,	15	Valued rent in Scotch money,	L. 15,860
Greateſt rent of theſe about -	L. 300	Real do. Stg. about	L. 6000

Stock.

No. of ſheep, -	36,000	No. of ploughs,	44
——— black cattle,	1200	——— carts, bout	150

Commerce, Proviſions and Labour.—The only markets for butcher meat, groceries, *&c.* are Hawick and Langholm;

* Farms are ſtyled *led*, when one tenant poſſeſſes two or more, and does not reſide on them.

holm; ſo that the prices of theſe articles are regulated by thoſe places, with the addition of a conſiderable expence for carriage. Butter, ſold formerly at 4 d. afterwards at 6 d. ſells now at 9 d. *per* pound; a conſiderable quantity is put up in firkins, and ſent to Newcaſtle for the London market. Dealers buy it on the ſpot, and this ſeaſon pay L. 1, 13 s. L. 1, 14 s. and L. 1, 15 s. *per* firkin, of 56 lb. Engliſh. The price, however, frequently varies, running from L. 1, 1 s. to L. 1, 10 s. Cow-milk cheeſe ſells for 4 s. 6 d. *per* ſtone, and ewe-milk for 7 s. or 7 s. 6d. Hens and ducks ſell at 6 d. each, chickens at 3 d. and geeſe at 1 s. 6 d. and 2 s. Theſe articles have varied little in price theſe ſeveral years. The prices of labour have riſen exceedingly within theſe 40 or 50 years, as appears from the following comparative ſtatement:

	Wages in 1740.	*Wages in* 1793.
A man ſervant * with maintenance,	from L. 3 to L. 3 10 0	from L. 8 to L. 10 0 0
A woman ſervant with ditto, in ſummer,	0 16 6†	2 10 0
Ditto in winter,	0 5 0	1 5 0
A day labourer in winter, without maintenance	0 0 6	0 1 0
Ditto in ſummer with ditto,	0 0 6	0 1 0
A tailor in winter,	0 0 4	0 0 8
Ditto in ſummer,	0 0 6	with maintenance, 0 0 8
Price of a pair of ſhoes,	0 4 6	0 6 9
Ditto of a pair of clogs,	0 2 6	0 2 6

Church.

* Only 15 years ago a man's wages were commonly L. 3, or L. 3, 10s. and the very higheſt did not exceed L. 6.

† Of this ſum 12 s. 6 d. was paid in money, and the other 4 s. in one ſtone of wool. About the year 1730, a woman's wages were only 5 groats and a woollen jerkin.

Church, &c.—The church was built in 1777. The rain penetrates through the walls, and part of the timber is already rotten. The manſe and offices are a heap of ruins. They were built on the top of a hideous precipice, about 100 feet of perpendicular height ‡, where there is not a drop of water for the uſe of man or beaſt. The late Mr Rutherford found a ſmall ſpring about the middle of the rock, which he endeavoured to draw up at a great expence; the well was continually filling up, and is now entirely waſhed away. It is propoſed to build a manſe and offices in a more agreeable ſituation next ſpring. The preſent incumbent is accommodated in the mean time with a houſe a little more than two miles from the church. The living is L. 83 : 6 : 8. The value of the glebe cannot be accurately aſcertained, as an exchange of land between the Duke of Buccleugh and the miniſter is juſt completed, which will be more convenient for both parties; at preſent the whole of the land is in the moſt wretched condition. A few of the inhabitants attend a Seceding meeting houſe in the lower part of the pariſh, built about 30 years ago, and at preſent very much on the decline. All the reſt belong to the Eſtabliſhed Church.

Old Chapels.—There have been no leſs than 5 chapels or churches in the pariſh, beſides the pariſh church. The Wheel Church at the head of Liddal, Hermitage, on the river of that name, Dinlabyre, Ettleton, and Chapel-know, on the borders of Canonby. Ettleton and Hermitage are ſtill uſed

‡ Some years ago a woman going from the manſe at night, fell from the top of the precipice into the river; her thigh bone only was broken; ſhe is now in perfect health.

uſed as burying-grounds, and many grave-ſtones appear in the others. The Wheel Church has been of excellent workmanſhip. The population of the country muſt certainly have been far greater in thoſe times. The Wheel Church has been pretty large; many grave-ſtones appear in the church-yard; yet, when ſtanding on the ſpot at this time, there are only 3 farm houſes in view, taking in a circle of many miles.

Schools.—The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary is L. 8 : 6 : 8, beſides his perquiſites ariſing from his office of ſeſſion-clerk, precentor, marriages, collections, the poor's rates, and ſchool fees. The ſchool houſe is in good repair; but the ſchool is in very bad order. The number of ſcholars at preſent is very ſmall. There are two other ſchools in the pariſh, ſupported by private contributions.

Poor.—There is no place where the poor are better provided for than in this pariſh. Poor's rates were eſtabliſhed in 1774. The heritors pay one half, and the tenants the other; it is levied quarterly; the money is paid moſt punctually, and immediately applied. Thoſe upon the roll receive from 5 s. to L. 1 : 2 : 6 *per* quarter, according to their neceſſities. The preſent aſſeſſment is L. 56 *per* quarter. In the years 1782 and 1783 ſeveral perſons received temporary ſupply, and when the meal fell lower in price it was withdrawn. The weekly collections at the church, ſince the poor's rates were eſtabliſhed, are exceedingly ſmall. But from theſe, from fines paid by delinquents, and from marriages out of church, perſons not on the poor's roll, and in diſtreſſed circumſtances, are relieved. No perſon is allowed to beg. A friendly ſociety was eſtabliſhed a few years ago; the members pay 5 s. at

entering, and ſo much *per* quarter; it promiſes to be very uſeful.

Roads.—It muſt appear very ſtrange to any perſon acquainted with the improvements, which other parts of Scotland have received by means of roads, when it is mentioned, that, in this very extenſive country, not a yard of road had ever been attempted to be formed, till within theſe few years. The ſtatute labour has long been commuted. For about 16 miles along the Liddal, the road lay rather *in* the river than *upon its banks*, the only path being in what is called *the Watergate*, and the unhappy traveller muſt croſs it at leaſt 24 times in that extent. The ſame thing ſtill takes place, with reſpect to the Hermitage, as far as it runs. At length, by the exertions of two of the heritors, fortunately for the country, poſſeſſed of public ſpirit, Mr OLIVER of Dinlabyre, and Mr ELLIOT of Whithaugh, a road was begun, and is now carrying along the ſide of the Liddal for ſeveral miles. Hawick being almoſt the only market from which we receive meal, groceries, ſpirits, iron, *&c.* *&c.* the want of a road to it is attended with much inconvenience and expence. But the funds, ariſing from the ſtatute labour, are perhaps inadequate to keep ſo many miles of road in ſuch repair as the country requires, and much leſs to make new ones. Unleſs ſome other method is adopted, the preſent road cannot be completed, and there is no reaſon to hope, that the road along the Hermitage can be formed in the preſent generation. There is much intercourſe with both Hawick and Langholm, by weekly markets, fairs, *&c.* and the difficulty of travelling to thoſe places is inconceivable. Every article muſt be carried on horſeback; and through theſe deep and broken bogs and moſſes we muſt *crawl*, to the great fatigue of ourſelves, but the much greater injury of our horſes,

without the hope of a more comfortable mode of travelling. As we have hitherto had no roads, it is not to be expected that we ſhould have had bridges. The two rivers, Liddal and Hermitage, divide the pariſh for about 26 miles; there never was a bridge on either of them. From a conſiderable ſum of vacant ſtipend, with the aſſiſtance of the ordinary fund, one was built over the river Hermitage in 1792; and laſt autumn another was completed over the Liddal. Theſe, together with that part of the road already made, are of the greateſt ſervice to the country, and to many travellers, who begin to paſs this way from Carliſle to the northern markets, and to Berwick-ſhire, the road being much nearer than by Langholm and Moſs-Paul.

Fuel.—The fuel chiefly uſed is peat, of which there is an inexhauſtible fund in every part of the country. There is alſo coal in the lower part of the pariſh, wrought on the eſtate of Mr Oliver. It is ſold at the pit at 3 d. *per* buſhel, or 6 d. *per* load. Carriers, who bring goods from Hawick, commonly return loaded with coal.

New Caſtletown.—As there is not a village in the pariſh, labourers and mechanics have long been very inconveniently ſituated for houſes. For their accommodation, and no doubt to encourage manufactures, the Duke of Buccleugh, has for ſome time paſt, intended to build a new town. At length a place was fixed on, and a plan made out. It is ſet down on the farm of Park, on the banks of the Liddal, in a field of upwards of 100 acres of fine land, and is named *Caſtletown*. It is to conſiſt of two principal ſtreets, bearing the names of the two rivers, *Liddal* and *Hermitage*, with ſeveral croſs ſtreets at right angles. Hermitage-ſtreet is begun, and advancing rapidly. There is a ſquare, called *Douglas Square*, in the centre, for a market place,

place, conſiſting of about two acres of ground, round which the buildings conſiſt of two ſtories. Near each extremity there is a ſmaller ſquare. The ſtreet is 54 feet wide; in the principal ſquare it is 100 feet. It was begun in March laſt; and at preſent there are 23 houſes either inhabited, or nearly finiſhed. Each houſe coſts from L. 35 to L. 40 Sterling. They hold of the Duke, pay a ſmall ſum by way of feu-duty, and have each a good garden. Every feuer has graſs for a cow on the hill, for which they pay L. 1. For each houſe they have two acres of holm land, for 14 years, for which they pay a certain ſum. A ſituation more favourable for carrying on manufactures is ſcarcely to be found. Its local advantages are very great. Within 100 yards of peat, and only about 3 miles from coal, it has water at command to drive machinery of any extent. Wool, the ſtaple commodity of the country, grows on the ſide of every hill. There is an excellent road lately made by Canonby to Carliſle, the Solway frith, *&c.* Poſſeſſed of theſe advantages, it ſolicits ſome perſon of enterprize and induſtry to improve them. When we conſider what has been done in Galaſhiels, *&c.* and in ſituations far leſs favourable, it is hoped the time is not far diſtant, when ſuch advantages as theſe will attract the attention of the manufacturers either of flax, wool, or cotton; and inſtead of ſending the wool, the raw material, to Leeds, Huddersfield, *&c.* by a long and expenſive land carriage, it will be manufactured here where it grows, enrich the country by encouraging induſtry, adding to population, and by giving bread and employment to hundreds of all ages.

Natural History.

Reptiles, Fiſh, and Quadrupeds.—The reptiles produced in the pariſh are, toads, lizards, and adders. The laſt is not numerous.—The fiſh are, trouts, lampreys, eels, ſkelly,

or

or chubb, ſalmon, grilſe, *&c.* The ſalmon were very plentiful in former years, but ſince the bay or mound was built at Netherby, few get up at any time, and none but in the time of a great flood. The wild quadrupeds are foxes, hares, wild cats, pole cats, weazels, the white weazel, often ſeen in winter, hedge hogs and Norway rats. Tradition affirms, that the earth of Liddiſdale has a peculiar quality of baniſhing the common rat from Teviotdale. It is certain, that only a few years ago, carriers on their return to that country loaded their horſes with it, and carried it away for that purpoſe. But it is affirmed, with more probability, that it is only ſince the Norway rat was introduced, that the common rat has been extirpated.

Birds.—Black-cocks, grouſe, partridges, grey plovers, wild ducks, ſnipes, wood-pigeons, buzzards, ſtannels, owls, crows, ravens, herons, jackdaws, magpies, thruſhes, blackbirds, ſtarlings, linnets, and gold-finches, frequent the woods. The bittern was formerly numerous, but is now ſeldom to be ſeen. The birds of paſſage, that viſit us in the ſpring, or beginning of ſummer, are, the King's-fiſher, water crow, white and yellow ſeed birds, the black and ſand martins, the ſwallow, cuckoo, rail, curlew, green plover, ſand lark, ſtone chatterers, with different ſpecies of gulls and ſhieldrakes. Teal and widgeons are ſeen in ſpring when the waters are ſwelled with rain. The birds that viſit us in autumn are, the fieldfare and the wood-cock. Eagles, or earns, are frequently ſeen, but have no place of reſidence here *.

Minerals.

* A well authenticated inſtance of the amazing ſtrength of this bird occurred a few years ago upon the farm of Roughlee in this pariſh. One morning, when the ſhepherd was going round his flock, he ſaw an eagle coming over the Hermitage-hill immediately above him, with ſomething bulky in his talons.

Minerals.—There is great plenty of lime-ſtone in the pariſh, of different qualities. A draw kiln was erected laſt year on the Hermitage, and burns a conſiderable quantity. Several pits of marl are found on the farms of Flight, Kerſhope, and Tweeden, to appearance of excellent quality; but this, as well as other treaſures, are locked up from uſe by the want of roads. Beſides, the coal mentioned at Lawſtown, ſome ſmall crop ſeams appear on the Tweeden, *&c.* From the ſtrata of metals, it is apprehended, there is coal in ſeveral places, but no trials to any great extent have been made. Free-ſtone quarries of excellent ſtone are every where found, excepting at the head of the Hermitage, where there is nothing but blue whin-ſtone.

Medicinal Springs.—There are ſeveral ſprings in this pariſh, ſtrongly impregnated with ſulphur. There is one at the head of it, in that part called *the Dead Water*, unfortunately ſituated in the middle of that vaſt moraſs where the Liddal and the Tyne take their riſe. In wet ſeaſons it is weakened by the ſurrounding water. It is much frequented by perſons afflicted with cutaneous and ſcrophulous complaints, who receive great benefit from it. They drink the water, and uſe it as a warm bath. But the patients are

talons. Struck with the novelty of the ſight, he kept his eye upon the bird, and ſaw him ſit down at a little diſtance. He ran to the ſpot, when the eagle had diſengaged from his talons a fine lamb, and was preparing to tear him in pieces, which the man reſcued, and carried home. At that inſtant, a medical gentleman was viſiting a patient in the ſhepherd's family. He examined the lamb, found it a fine male, the ſkin of the ſhoulder torn, but the bone had prevented the talons from injuring the vital parts; he ſewed up the wound, and it recovered and did well. On enquiry it was found, that the ſhepherd of Peel, the ſame morning, ſaw an eagle ſeize a lamb of his flock, and fly off with it, in the line of direction to the place where the lamb was found. The diſtance of the one place from the other is not leſs than five miles. JOHN ELLIOT, of Redheugh, Eſq; furniſhed the writer with this anecdote.

are expoſed to danger and incovenience from the want of proper accommodation. The wretched hovels in the neighbourhood being continually damp and wet. On the farm of Dinlabyre, another ſpring of the ſame kind is found; the collection of water is much greater, but at preſent almoſt loſt in the bog in which it is placed. A third is on the farm of Shortbuttrees, of excellent quality; all theſe might be highly beneficial, if the ground were properly drained and attended to. A very ſtrong mineral ſpring is found at Lawſtown; but as its water has not been analized, it is uncertain to what claſs it belongs.

Petrifying Water.—There are ſeveral ſprings of this kind. One is found on the Tweeden, exceedingly powerful, and containing a great quantity of water, where large maſſes of petrified matter appear on every ſide converted into ſolid ſtone. The progreſs of the petrifaction is diſtinct and beautiful. The fog, which grows on the edge of the ſpring, and is ſprinkled with the water, is about eight inches high; the lower part is converted into ſolid ſtone; the middle appears as if half frozen, and the top is green and flouriſhing. The petrified matter, when burnt, is reſolved into very fine lime. The ſpring itſelf, when led over the fields in little rills, fertilizes them exceedingly.

Caſcades.—There are ſeveral beautiful water-falls on the river Tweeden, the little ſtreams of Dinlabyre, Harden, and Sundhope. But on the river Blackburn, ſuch ſcenes are ſeen in all their beauty and variety. Sometimes the river ſhoots over a perpendicular rock, in one unbroken ſheet of water, forming a beautiful caſcade; at other times it is darted over tremendous precipices, and rages furiouſly among the huge maſſes of the rock below. In this wild and romantic vale, nature appears in various

forms, now beautiful, then awful, ſometimes ſublime, and frequently terrible. The author of this account meaſured the principal falls. One is 27 feet perpendicular in height, another 31½; the breadth of the rock over which it falls, 36; a third is 37½ in height, and 20 feet wide.

Natural Bridge of Stone.—One of the greateſt curioſities to be ſeen in this country, or perhaps in Scotland, is a natural bridge of ſtone over the ſame river. It ſtretches acroſs the ſtream, and joins the hills on each ſide. It is 55 feet long, 10 feet wide, and the thickneſs of the arch is 2 feet 4 inches of ſolid ſtone. It is not compoſed of one entire rock, but has the appearance of many ſtones about a foot and a half ſquare, ſet neatly together. The bridge ſlopes a little downwards, and the water ruſhes under the arch, through an opening of 31 feet.

Woods.—The natural woods conſiſt of oak, aſh, birch, and alder. Conſiderable plantations have been made of Scots fir, ſpruce, larix, oak, aſh, beech and plane. They are all in a thriving condition. There is at preſent growing on the river Blackburn, an old aſh tree, the trunk of which meaſures 18 feet in circumference, one branch of it 9 feet, and another 8. The trunk is hollow within; five perſons of ordinary ſize may eaſily ſit in it at the ſame time. Laſt year the river Liddal, in the time of a high flood, threw up the trunk of an oak tree, oppoſite to Haggihaugh, the ſeat of Colonel Elliot of Lariſton. Not only the bark, but great part of the wood, ſeems waſted by age; notwithſtanding which this venerable trunk, as it now lies, meaſures 26 feet in length, and 10 feet in circumference, and is perfectly ſtraight. There is ſcarcely a tree within view of the place where it lies, excepting a few Scotch firs.

Eminent

Eminent Men.—This pariſh gave birth to the celebrated Dr ARMSTRONG, whoſe father and brother were miniſters of it.

Antiquities.—There are ſeveral monuments of great antiquity in the pariſh, but their origin and their hiſtory are involved in much obſcurity. Even tradition itſelf ſays little concerning them. There are alſo ſeveral old gold coins in the poſſeſſion of Mr Elliot of Red-heugh *. Though this pariſh comprehended a great part of the middle march between the two kingdoms, yet excepting a few detached facts, there is nothing of conſequence preſerved or related by hiſtorians. As it lies directly along the Engliſh Border, it muſt have been, for a long period, the ſcene of action, of fierce contentions, barbarous feuds, and marauding expeditions, which took place between the two nations, when, before the union, and before law and civilization took place, inroads were conſtantly made by both parties upon each other, and the ſtronger arm carried away every thing both from the houſe and from the field. Theſe exploits have been recorded in the poetry of the times, which are ſtill ſung by the aged, and liſtened to with eagerneſs by the young. They contain an account of the heroic atchievements of thoſe days, that is to ſay, of the inroads made and repelled by the marauders on each ſide of the Border †.

Caſtles.

* They were found on the farm of Prieſt-heugh, in the neighbourhood of this pariſh. Some years ago a box was found in the ſide moſs, containing about 120 ſilver coins, about the value of 3d. each, variouſly inſcribed. Some of them were clipped, or cut in the edges, and not coined. Some copper or braſs veſſels, of antique forms, were found in a moſs on Shortbuttrees, and ſent to the Duke of Buccleugh.

† The following extracts from the ancient records of the Courts of Juſtice

Caſtles.—Hermitage Caſtle ſtands upon the bank of the river of that name. It has been a very ſtrong building, near 100 feet ſquare, defended by a ſtrong rampart and ditch †. The walls are almoſt entire. The inner part is a

Juſtice * exhibit a ſpecimen of the tranſactions of thoſe times. Several perſons mentioned in it are the heroes in the old ſongs and ballads:

"At the Treeves, or Juſticiary meeting of the Lords Wardens, to hear all complaints, 1581.—Weſt Marches againſt Liddiſdale, Sir Simon Muſgrave, Knight, with Thorn of the Todhill and his neighbours, complain upon Robin Elliot of the Park, Sim Elliot, Clemie Croſier, Gawens Jock, and their complices, for 60 kine and oxen, a horſe, and the taking of Thom Routledge priſoner."

"*June* 1582.—Matthew Taylor, and the poor widow of Martin Taylor, complain upon Old Laird of Whithaugh, Young Laird of Whithaugh, Sims Thom, and Jock of Copſhawe for 140 kie and oxen, 100 ſheep, 20 gaits, and all their inſight, L. 200 Sterling."

"*October* 1582.—Sir Simon Muſgrave, deputy of Bewcaſtle and tenants againſt Walter Scot, Laird of Buckleith, and his complices, for 200 kine and oxen, 300 gates and ſheep."

"*November* 1582.—Sir Simon Muſgrave complains on the Laird of Mangerton, Lairds Jock, Sims Thom, and their complices, for burning of his barns, wheat, rye, oats, big, and peas, worth L. 1000 Sterling."

"Weſt of England againſt Liddiſdale, L. 3230."

"Liddiſdale againſt the Weſt Marches, L. 8000."

* *Hiſtory of Cumberland.*

† It is ſaid to have been built by a Lord Soules, then Warden of the Border; but it does not appear, that there is any accurate account of its age. Smollet mentions that Alexander II. built a caſtle in Liddiſdale, which gave ſuch offence to Henry III. of England, that he made war upon the king of Scotland, 1240. This, in all probability, was the caſtle of Hermitage. Among the remarkable places in the county of Liddiſdale, Hector Boece mentions "the Caſtle of Hermitage, now demoliſhed." A great part of the ancient caſtle appears to have been thrown down, and the ancient part of the architecture is eaſily diſtinguiſhed from the more modern. Biſhop Elphinſton mentions, that Sir William Douglas, Earl of

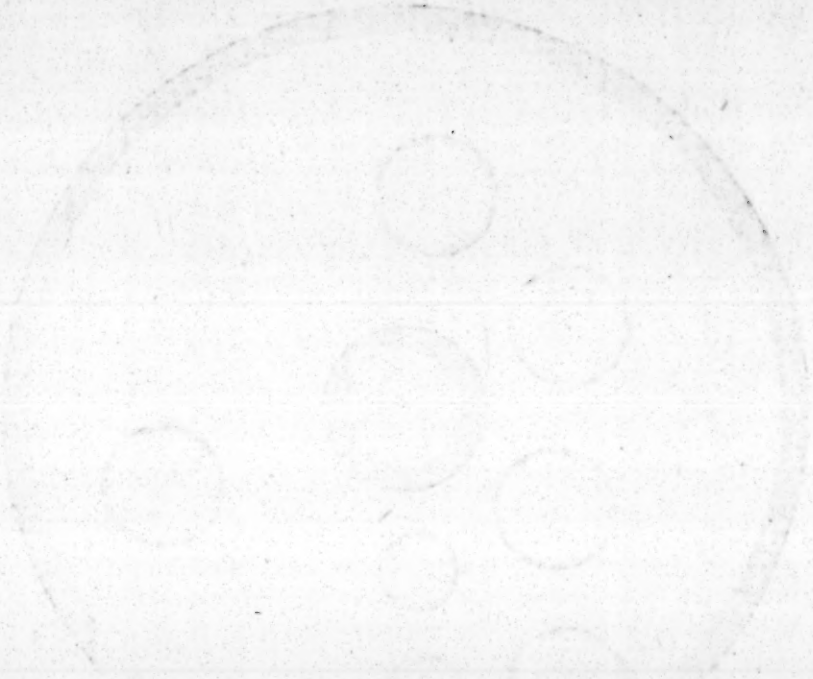
a heap of ruins. Within a few yards of the caſtle are the remains of the ancient chapel of Hermitage †, now in ruins, in the middle of the burying ground ſtill in uſe. The font is in the wall of the church-yard. The caſtle of Clintwood, on the farm of Flight, appears to have been a very ſtrong building; the foundation, and a little part of the

of Liddiſdale, beat the Engliſh out of all Teviotdale, and took the caſtle of Hermitage in the year 1340. In this caſtle Sir Alexander Ramſay of Dalhouſie was ſtarved to death by the ſame Sir W. Douglas; who, fired with jealouſy becauſe Sir Alexander was made Sheriff of Teviotdale, ſurpriſed him in the church of Hawick when holding an aſſembly, carried him to the caſtle, and threw him into a dungeon with his horſe's furniture. This happened in 1342 *. Some years ago, a maſon employed in building a dike in the neighbourhood, had the curioſity to penetrate into a vault in the eaſt end of the caſtle. Having made an opening, he deſcended by a ladder; and in a vault, about 8 feet ſquare, he found ſeveral human bones, with a ſaddle, a bridle, and ſword; he brought out the bridle and ſword. The bit was of an uncommon ſize; the curb of it is in the poſſeſſion of Walter Scott, Eſq; Advocate. In the dungeon he found a great quantity of the huſks of oats. Report ſays, the granary of the caſtle was immediately above this vault, and that Sir Alexander ſubſiſted for ſome time on what fell down into the vault. From theſe circumſtances it is highly probable, that the bones were thoſe of that gentleman, and that this was the vault into which he was thrown, and ſtarved to death. This caſtle was alſo viſited by the ill-fated Queen Mary, in the year 1561, on occaſion of Bothwell's being wounded by John Elliot in Park. She came from, and returned to Jedburgh in the ſame day, not only a long journey, but over mountains, and through marſhes almoſt impaſſable. In one of thoſe marſhes, a few miles from the caſtle, her horſe ſtuck in the moſs, which is ſtill called *the Queen's Mire*.

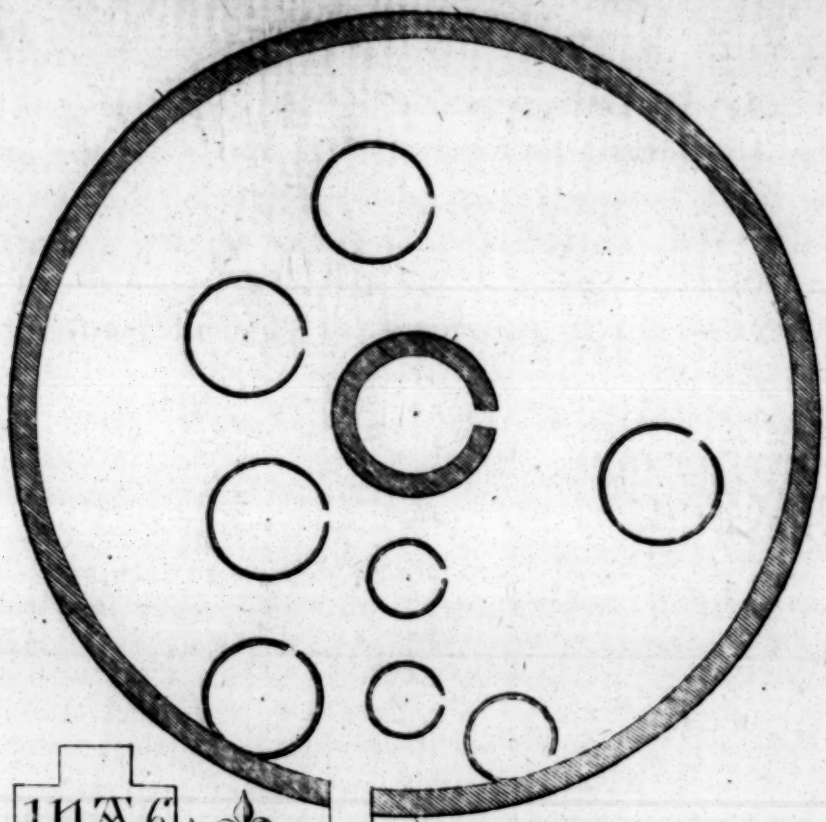
* *Mackenzie's Lives.*

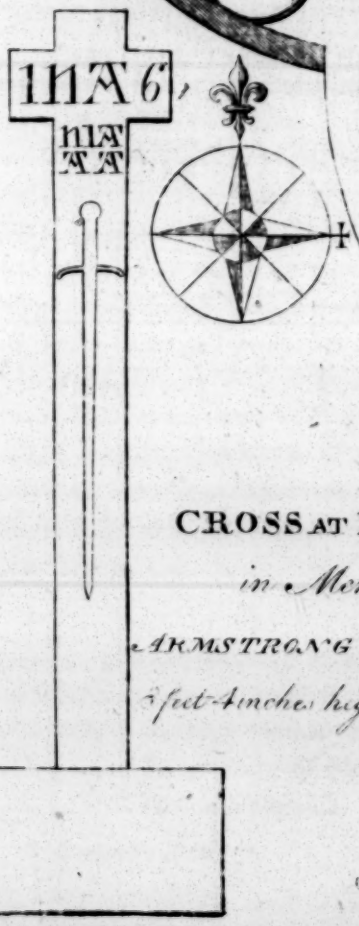
† The chapel, caſtle, and river derive their name from the cell of a hermit, who had retired thither. He could not have choſen a more ſolitary ſpot, nor one more fit for mortification or for contemplation. They give title to the eldeſt ſon of the family of Deloraine. Lord Henry Scot, third ſon of James Duke of Monmouth, by Anne Ducheſs of Buccleugh, was created Earl of Deloraine, Viſcount Hermitage, 1706 *.

* *Douglas's Peerage.*



Engraved for Sir John Sinclair's Statistical account of SCOTLAND *Vol. XVI. P. 83.*





CAMP
on the Top of CORBY HILL
100 yards Diameter
in the PARISH *of*
CASTLETOWN.
Scale 33 Y.ds to 1 Inch.

Road

CROSS AT MILNHOLM
in Memory of
ARMSTRONG OF MANGERTON
5 feet 4 inches high base 1 foot 8 inches.

Gavin Sculp.

the wall, are ſtill to be ſeen. This caſtle, from which the pariſh derives its name, is ſituated on the upper part of the glebe, and in former times muſt have been impregnable on the E. and N. On the E. it is defended by a very deep ravine; on the N. by the Liddal, and a precipice of more than 100 feet in height; and on the W. and S. by two ramparts of great ſtrength, and a foſſe of great depth. The only peel houſe that remains entire is Hudſhouſe; the vault is immenſely ſtrong, and has had double doors, bolted on the inſide *.

Camps.—The principal camp is on the top of Carby Hill. This hill is detached from all others, and commands a view of the whole country, and of all that part of Cumberland, by Beeſe-Caſtle, *&c.* The camp is entirely circular, and occupies the whole ſummit of the hill; it is fortified by a very ſtrong wall of ſtones, and a road plainly appears to have been made up to it, winding round a part of the hill, and entering it on the ſouth. It is about 100 feet diameter. In the centre a ſmall ſpace is incloſed with a ſtrong wall, and round it are 8 circles of different ſizes †, all ſurrounded by a ſtone wall, and all of them having had a door or opening to the eaſt. On the ſummit of the Side-hill, and nearly oppoſite to Carby, on the north ſide of the Liddal, there is another ſtrong encampment, nearly of a ſquare form. It is 300 feet in diameter. The wall or rampart is entirely of earth, and is about 18 feet high. This camp has none of

* There were many ſquare towers formerly in this country, the place of reſidence of the principal families, and all of them places of ſtrength. They were chiefly on the banks of the river Liddal, *viz.* Peel, Hudſhouſe, Prickinghaugh, Whithaugh, Hillhouſe, Riccarton, Mangerton, Puddingburn, *&c.* Of theſe nothing remain but the foundations.

† See the copperplate.

of the interior circles of the former. On the farm of Flight, and near to the caſtle of Clintwood, there are two camps at a little diſtance from each other; the one round, and fortified with a ſtone wall * about 100 feet diameter; and the other ſquare, about 168 feet in length, with two ramparts of earth †.

Picts Works.—There are a great many *round-abouts* in the pariſh, commonly called *Picts Works.* They are all circular, and ſtrongly fortified by a wall, compoſed of large ſtones. They are frequently found, the one at a little diſtance from, and oppoſite to the other. There are two nigh Heeds-houſe, two on the farm of Shaws, one on Toftholm, one on Foulſhiels, one on Cocklaw, one on Blackburn, and one on Shortbuttrees ‡. On the farm of Millburn there is a ſmall circle encloſed by 9 ſtones, which ſeems to have been a Druidical temple. Tradition ſays Lord Soules was burnt there. The hill is called *Nine-Stone Ridge.*

Cairns.—There are many cairns ‖ in different places. The moſt remarkable of theſe is on the farm of Whiſgills. The

* This year (1793) the wall was carried away to build a ſtone dike, and at a conſiderable depth, among ſome large ſtones, there was found the head of ſome weapon, or inſtrument of fine braſs, 4½ inches long; the one end is fitted to receive a ſhaft or handle, the other is widened, and is formed and ſharpened like the edge of a hatchet, The other article found has the appearance of a ſmall ſword of mixed metal, about three feet long, but was broken by the workman before the writer hereof could get them into his poſſeſſion.

† A learned gentleman informs me, that a Roman legion wintered in Liddiſdale, cut down wood, and drained marſhes.

‡ The ſtones of this laſt were lately removed; and on the ſouth ſide there was found a place 10 feet wide, and 20 feet long, paved with flat ſtones, and incloſed by others on each ſide, ſet on edge, within which there ſeemed to be aſhes and burnt ſticks.

‖ On the farm of Cleugh-head one was removed, and an urn found full of

The quantity of ſtones is immenſe, and they are moſtly of a very large ſize. Near theſe, there is a large ſtone ſet on end, about 5 feet high, called *the Standing Stone.* This cairn is in the middle of an extenſive and deep moſs. It can be approached on horſe-back only on one ſide, and that with much difficulty. There is not a ſtone to be ſeen near it.—Upon the march between the pariſhes of Caſtletown and Canonby, and upon very high ground near to Tinnis-hill, there is a cairn of great extent, and conſiſting of free-ſtones of great ſize. It is 86 yards long; it is not poſſible to approach it on horſe-back. The ſtones are chiefly of a ſquare form, of immenſe weight, and what is very remarkable, there is not a ſtone to be ſeen, nor a place where ſtones could be found, within a great diſtance of the place. At the north end of it, there are ſeveral large ſtones ſet on their edges, forming a ſquare, and covered over by one ſtone. Near to the ſouth end there is one ſtanding perpendicular, evidently ſo placed by the hand of man, 7 feet above the moſs, and 13 feet in circumference. This was anciently called the ſtanding ſtone, and was conſidered the north boundary of Canonby, or the debateable land *. On examining the ground near it, I found five other ſtones, nearly of an equal ſize with the former, all inclining to, or lying on the ground, forming a circle, the diameter of which is 45 yards. How theſe ſtones were collected, for what purpoſe, or what the circle has been, which is formed by ſtones of ſuch immenſe weight and ſize, I leave to others to determine.

of aſhes, which ſoon fell in pieces. In this cairn were diſcovered a great number of ſtones, formerly uſed for *knocking* bear, or making barley. Some among them was a ſtone croſs, about 4 feet long. Some other cairns have been opened, and aſhes found incloſed by 4 ſtones ſet in a ſquare form.

* Vid. Hiſtory of Cumberland.

Croſs.—At Milnholm there is a croſs of one ſtone, 8 feet 4 inches high, ſet in a baſe 1 foot 8 inches *. This is a piece of great antiquity. A ſword 4 feet long is cut out on the S. ſide of the croſs, and immediately above ſeveral letters, as will appear from the repreſentation of it in the plate.

Diſadvantages.—The diſadvantages this country labours under, from the want of roads, are very great. Improvements to any conſiderable extent can never be carried on while theſe are wanting, and the means of improvement which the country itſelf poſſeſſes are locked up from uſe. The cottages, and moſt of the farm-houſes, are in very bad order. Another diſadvantage ariſes from the froſts in ſpring, and the early part of harveſt, to which the country is ſometimes expoſed, and which prove chiefly hurtful to the potatoes and peaſe.

Character.—The people in general enjoy, in a reaſonable degree, the comforts of ſociety, and are contented with their ſituation. They are by no means fond of a military life.

* The tradition concerning it is this:—One of the governors of Hermitage Caſtle, ſome ſay Lord Soules, others Lord Douglas, having entertained a paſſion for a young woman in the lower part of the pariſh, went to her houſe, and was met by her father, who, wiſhing to conceal his daughter, was inſtantly killed by the Governor. He was ſoon purſued by the people, and, in extreme danger, took refuge with Armſtrong of Mangerton, who had influence enough to prevail on the people to deſiſt from the purſuit, and by this means ſaved his life. Seemingly with a view to make a return for this favour, but ſecretly jealous of the power and influence of Armſtrong, he invited him to Hermitage Caſtle, where he was baſely murdered. He himſelf, in his turn, was killed by *Jock of the Side*, of famous memory, and brother to Armſtrong. The croſs was erected in memory of this tranſaction, near to Ettleton church-yard, where he was buried, and almoſt oppoſite to Mangerton.

life. The majority are of the middle ſize, but many of them conſiderably above, and ſeveral under it. Notwithſtanding the want of roads, and their great diſtance from church, (many of them being 8, and even 10 miles diſtant), they are remarkable for their general and conſtant attendance on religious ordinances, and exemplary in their conduct during the time of divine ſervice. They make an excellent appearance on ſuch, and on all other public occaſions; they are clean and well dreſſed, in coloured veſts, and cloth of Engliſh manufacture. They are diſtinguiſhed by their hoſpitality and humanity, ever willing to contribute to the relief of thoſe in diſtreſs *. Few law-ſuits have occurred; no puniſhments have been inflicted; and few or no traces of the border or barbarous cuſtoms are now to be ſeen. It is impoſſible to conclude this article without remarking the ſtriking contraſt between the former and the preſent ſituation of the country. The inhabitants feel the happy change, and are ſenſible of the ſuperior bleſſings they enjoy. It was formerly the ſcene of fierce contention, of barbarous feuds, of plunder, and of deſolation, when there was neither ſecurity of property nor of life. At preſent we can only trace the foundations of the ancient caſtles, the ſtrong holds of their fierce poſſeſſors. Their uſeleſs walls are thrown down, and converted into ſheep folds, and their ſwords have become ruſted in their ſcabbards, or have been almoſt literally beaten into plough-ſhares. "Every one ſits in peace under his own vine, and his own "fig tree, and there is none to make him afraid."

NUM-

* An inſtance of this very lately occurred:—On a day ſet apart by the Synod, for thankſgiving for the favourable harveſt, it was ſuggeſted from the pulpit, to collect a ſum for aſſiſting in procuring warm clothing to our brave countrymen in Flanders. Next Sabbath they were forward, from the higheſt to the loweſt, to contribute to this humane purpoſe, and enabled their miniſter to tranſmit a conſiderable donation to the Lord Provoſt of Edinburgh.

NUMBER IV.

PARISH OF FORGAN,

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF FIFE, PRESBYTERY OF ST ANDREW'S.)

By the Rev. Mr JAMES BURN, *Miniſter.*

Origin of the Name.

FORGAN, *alias* ST PHILLANS, is the name of the pariſh. On the communion cups, made in the year 1652, it is ſpelled *Forgon*. The derivation of the name is uncertain. From ſome old charters it would ſeem to ſignify *Fore Ground*. Indeed, a good part of it has a gentle deſcent towards the ſouth. The name, however, is not uncommon. In Angus-ſhire, there is a pariſh named *Long-Forgan;* in the county of Perth, there is another called *Forgan-Denny*. The other name, *St Phillans*, ſeems to have been derived from a Popiſh ſaint of that name, of ſome renown in the days of antiquity. About an Engliſh mile weſt from the manſe is the ſeat of ROBERT STEWART, Eſq; which bears the name of *St Fort*. This was probably in ancient times the dwelling of the ſaint. It ſtands upon

a

a riſing ground, and might perhaps be then conſidered as a place of ſtrength. There is alſo towards the eaſt of St Fort, the *Upper* and *Nether Friartown*, which, no doubt, were formerly inhabited by Popiſh friars.

Extent, Soil and Climate.—This pariſh is about 4 Engliſh miles in length, but not above 2 in breadth. A part of it is a ſtrath from E. to W. the ground riſing gently on each ſide. Much of it is of a ſouthern expoſure. Another part of it lies bending towards the N. on the ſide of the river Tay. The ſoil is for the moſt part light, but is rendered fertile by the uſe of lime. Some of it is black; other parts of a mixed nature. There is little clay ſoil in the pariſh. The climate is healthy; few epidemic diſtempers prevail much here, except the fever, which now and then proves fatal to many. Some are now alive betwixt 80 and 90 years of age. One is ſaid to be above 90. He lives on the ground of St-Fort *.

River, Ferries, Coaſt, Harbours, Fiſh, &c.—The river Tay runs along the northern ſide of the pariſh. On the oppoſite ſide of the river, which is about 2 miles in breadth, ſtands the populous and flouriſhing town of Dundee. There are two ferries on this ſide of the river, Woodhaven

* Colonel Lindſay, brother to Mr Lindſay, who was then proprietor of that eſtate, one day having met this old man, aſked him, how many *Lairds of St Fort* he had ſeen? he anſwered, he had ſeen *ſix*, and hoped he might live to ſee the *ſeventh*. What, ſaid the Colonel, do you wiſh to ſee a change of the Laird? I ſuppoſe, ſaid the old man, you will have no objection againſt the coming home of the young Laird. The proprietor was at that time lately married. The Colonel was ſo much pleaſed with the good humour of the old man, that he gave him half a crown, which made him very happy, as it is more than probable he had ſeldom before been poſſeſſed of ſo large a ſum at one time. This man has lived to ſee another, who is the *ſeventh* proprietor of the eſtate of St Fort.

and Newport, both of which are in this pariſh. There is a number of boats employed, ſome of a larger, others of a leſſer ſize, ſome of which, when the weather permits, croſs at all tides. The tide is about half an hour later here than at Leith. Theſe ferries were much more frequented before the bridge was built over the Tay at Perth, than they have been ſince. Some of the ferrymen are ſober and diſcreet; others of them borrow the language and behaviour of thoſe who frequent the paſſage, eſpecially of ſuch whom they look on as their ſuperiors in rank and ſtation. How much is it to be regretted, that from ſo many of theſe they often learn to be rude and profane. The coaſt extends along the north ſide of the pariſh. It is for the moſt part rocky. The harbours at Woodhaven and Newport are very inconſiderable, fit only for their boats, and a few ſloops, which are ſometimes employed in importing coals, and exporting corn. On the banks of the river there are ſeveral ſalmon fiſhings *, ſome of which have of late increaſed in value. They are for the moſt part carried on by means of what is called *a Yair*. But by ſome, the long net with a boat is made uſe of. The ſalmon are ſometimes diſpoſed of at the rate of 4 d. and even 6 d. *per* lb. to the people of Perth, who export them to London, and ſell them at high prices. By others they are ſent to the neighbouring towns of Dundee and Cupar in Fife, diſtant about 6 computed miles.

Cultivation.

* A proceſs before the Court of Seſſion was lately commenced reſpecting one of theſe, and moſt keenly agitated on both ſides. Several hundred pounds were expended by each of the contending parties, one of whom, the Rev. Dr Dalgleiſh of Scotſcraig, not only prevailed, but obtained his expences.

Cultivation.—The improvement of the ground has, of late years, made conſiderable progreſs, chiefly from the uſe of lime, which, on our light and dry ſoil, has the moſt happy effects. The lime is driven in carts from the diſtance of 8 or 10 computed miles; ſome of the tenants bring it from Northumberland by ſea. Their crops are by it enriched when the ſeaſon is not too dry. Some lands that are marſhy have of late been greatly meliorated by draining. ROBERT STEWART, Eſq; of St Fort, who is very active and induſtrious, beſides other improvements which he has made, has drained a piece of ground, which, during the winter, was almoſt covered with water. It was fit for nothing but feeding a few young cattle in ſummer; and, though conſiſting of 52 acres, was ſometimes let for about L. 5 or L. 6. It is more than probable, that in a few years it will ſet for upwards of L. 50 Sterling. What a bleſſing is it to the country, when proprietors of land, inſtead of debauching their neighbours by examples of intemperance, ſet them patterns of activity and honeſt induſtry! How is the bleſſing enhanced, when, by their example, the people under them are led to fear God, and to reverence his ſanctuary! The neglect of this ſeldom fails to ruin the morals of the people, and to deſtroy their induſtry.

Produce.—The farmers raiſe a pretty large quantity of wheat, although it is reckoned to ſcourge the ground; but they are tempted to prefer this crop by the high prices, which are generally from L. 1 to L. 1, 5 s. *per* boll. It is meaſured with the ſmall firlot, which is a great deal leſs than that uſed for oats and barley. They commonly have good crops of barley, and generally get a good price, from 15 s. to 18 s. Sterling *per* boll. They have alſo tolerable crops of oats and peaſe. The oats ſell at from 12 s. to 14 s.

per

per boll. Peaſe are by no means a lucrative crop, but they ſerve to meliorate the ground when the crop is rank, and the ſtraw is excellent fodder for horſes. It is chiefly on theſe accounts that the farmers continue to ſow them, for the price of peaſe is generally low, and their returns very inconſiderable. The ſoil is very much adapted to the culture of turnips; of theſe they raiſe good crops, with which, during the winter, they feed their cows and cattle, ſome of which they fatten for ſlaughter, and for which they ſometimes draw good prices. They have alſo good crops of potatoes, from the light and dry ſoil. Theſe yield a ſalutary ſupport to the poor people, when they do not uſe them to exceſs. To this, however, they are ſtrongly tempted, when the meal is high priced. On ſuch occaſions they feed upon them *thrice a day*, by which their health is ſometimes hurt. With the refuſe, and the ſmaller potatoes, they commonly feed ſwine, which they ſalt up for winter proviſion. This practice is become ſo common of late, that the price of a young pig of a few weeks old is generally 7 s.

Rents.—Their rents are from L. 100 to L. 400 *per annum*, and upwards. The tenants are all in eaſy circumſtances, and ſome of them are opulent. All of them are ſober, active, and induſtrious. Thoſe of them that have lately got new tacks pay double, and ſome almoſt triple their old rents. Several of the tenants have ſubſet ſome acres of their ground, lying at a diſtance from the farm houſes. They who enjoy theſe ſmall poſſeſſions are called *Pendiclers*. Some of them have 10 or 12 acres, ſome more, ſome leſs.

The valued rent of the pariſh in Scotch money is, - - - - L. 5145 5 7

The real rent, in Sterling, is ſuppoſed to be about, - - - L. 2873 0 0

Black

Black Cattle.—Of theſe a conſiderable number is annually reared. Till of late years, they were employed in drawing the plough, but they are now ſeldom or never uſed. Inſtead of two horſes and two oxen in the plough, which required a man ſervant and a boy to drive them, two horſes only are uſed, and one man manages both them and the plough at the ſame time. This is a conſiderable ſaving to the farmer, now when the wages are ſo high; and as the horſe plough moves quicker, more ground is ploughed in the ſame time. It is the new plough that is uſed in this part of the country.

Sheep.—Several flocks of theſe were formerly in the pariſh; now there is but one. The tenants found the ſheep very hurtful to their ſown graſs, which, in the winter, they tore up by the roots. Their *Sheep Walks* are now, by means of lime, turned into good corn-fields, which they find to be more profitable. They may, however, at length be compelled to return to their former practice of feeding flocks of ſheep, to meliorate thoſe fields which are at too great a diſtance for driving dung to them; when the ſtrength of the lime is ſpent, and they become unfit for producing crops of corn, the tedding of the ſheep may be found neceſſary to recruit theſe fields.

Minerals.—There is abundance of rock, ſome of a more hard, ſome of a ſofter nature. The firſt is very proper for common buildings, the latter for the making of roads; to improve which there is ſuch an uncommon ſpirit now happily prevailing in this part of the nation. There is alſo much channel, well adapted to the ſame purpoſe. But there is no free ſtone; this is brought from the other ſide of the Tay in boats, from a noted quarry in Angus-ſhire, commonly known by the name of Millfield Quarry.

Fuel.—There were formerly ſome peats dug out of the moſſes in the pariſh; but the proprietors have prohibited this practice for many years paſt. There are ſome muirs that abound with whins; from theſe the poor people get a part of their fuel. Coals are both ſcarce and high priced. The land coal is driven from the diſtance of 8 or 10 computed miles. A quantity ſuch as two horſes can conveniently draw, coſts about 7 s. 6 d.; an equal quantity, or rather larger, but of a much better quality, brought from Alloa and other places by ſea, will coſt 12 s. weighing about 112 ſtone weight. This makes the fuel coſtly to the poor, many of whom, during the cold of winter, aggravated to them by their meagre diet, are not a little injured by the want of it. But amidſt all their ſtraits, it is truly pleaſant to ſee them poſſeſſing that cheerfulneſs and contentment which Chriſtianity is ſo much fitted to inſpire.

Population.—The population is on the increaſe. Several feus have been made on the banks of the river Tay, and ſeveral new buildings have been of late erected on them. The number of examinable perſons in the pariſh at preſent (1793) is about - - - 700
Allowing the uſual proportion of $\frac{1}{4}$ for children, 175

The total number of ſouls may be ſtated at 875
The return to Dr Webſter, in 1755, was only 751

The increaſe ſince that period is therefore not leſs than 124

A

A Liſt of MARRIAGES, BAPTISMS, *and* BURIALS, *for* 10 *years, extracted from the Pariſh Records of Forgan.*

	Marriages.	Baptiſms.	Burials.
1780,	5	25	15
1781,	9	14	8
1782,	7	19	29
1783,	7	19	13
1784,	12	25	21
1785,	15	24	17
1786,	5	16	35
1787,	9	16	17
1788,	5	23	8
1789,	10	21	10
Total,	84	202	173

Prolific Births.—In the ſpace of 4 or 5 years, twins have been born at four ſeveral births. Since I came to the pariſh, one of the boatmen's wives was at one birth delivered of three fine children. They all lived till they were weaned, and two of them arrived at manhood.

CONDITIONS AND PROFESSIONS.

No. of Heritors, reſident,	7	No. of tailors,	6
—— Ditto non-reſident,	4	—— ſhoe-makers,	3
—— Miniſter,	1	—— wrights,	3
—— ſchool-maſter,	1	—— maſons,	4
—— tenants,	9	—— weavers,	14
—— pendiclers, or ſub-tenants,	16	—— poor on the roll,	6

Villages, Occupations of Women, &c.—There are ſeveral villages in the pariſh. The female inhabitants are generally

rally employed in ſpinning coarſe yarn, of which a kind of cloth is made that gets the name of *Oſnaburgh*. Of this the merchants in Dundee export large quantities; but in this, as in moſt other manufactures, there is a very great ſtagnation ſince the commencement of the preſent war. They got 1 s. 6 d. for ſpinning a ſpindle of this yarn; but ſince the war it has been ſo low as 1 s. and ſometimes 10 d. While the encouragement for ſpinning was high, it was ſometimes difficult for the tenants, and others, to get maid ſervants. But though their gain was conſiderable, yet the conſtant ſitting at the wheel, and the immoderate waſte of *ſaliva*, was by no means favourable to their health. Many of theſe people are employed in cutting down the corns in harveſt. During this ſeaſon they are uncommonly chearful and healthy; but as this exerciſe in the field is an extreme entirely oppoſite to the ſedentary life they generally lead through the reſt of the year, diſagreeable effects are ſometimes felt after the harveſt; however, the danger of this is not a little abated by their preſent manner of living during this ſeaſon, which is upon oat bread and ale, which, when freſh and good, is a moſt wholeſome diet. How much preferable to that which was uſed ſome years ago, *viz.* ſalt meat and ſalt broth, and ſometimes, it is ſaid, milk and ſalt herring? This, with their exceſſive labour, could not fail to excite a moſt painful thirſt; to quench which, as ſoon as they came to the *Land's End*, as they call it, they went in queſt of cold water; of which, when within their reach, having taken a plentiful ſhare, they ſat down to reſt, without reflecting on the danger they were in, which it is ſaid, has in ſome inſtances proved fatal.

Prices of Labour and Proviſions.—A maſon commonly gets 1 s. a day; a carpenter, or common wright, the ſame, ſometimes rather more; a tailor, 8 d.; a weaver gets ſo much

much a yard, ſometimes more, ſometimes leſs. A common labourer, when he works by the piece, will ſometimes earn 1s. 6d. or 1s. 8d. a-day; maid ſervants get about L. 3 Sterling a-year; men ſervants get from L. 6 to L. 10 Sterling; the men ſhearing in harveſt get 1s. *per* day; the women 10d.: but the generality of them are hired for a certain ſum during the harveſt; the men from L. 1, 1s. to L. 1, 5s. and a lippie of lintſeed; the women 16s. or 17s. and a lippie of ditto, ſometimes half a peck.—The beſt beef is for the moſt part 4d. *per* lb. (16 ounces); the mutton ſells uſually at the ſame rate; the veal, early in the ſeaſon, ſells at 6d. *per* lb. when plenty at 4d. ſometimes at 3d.; a hen 1s.; a gooſe at 3s.; eggs 4d. *per* dozen; rabbits, when ſkinned, ſell at 5d. *per* pair; their ſkins ſell from 7s. to 9s. or 10s. *per* dozen; cheeſe at 5s. *per* ſtone; pigeons at 5d. the pair. Within theſe 20 years, or even leſs, proviſions are almoſt doubled in their price.

Church.—The King is the patron. The preſent incumbent, Mr JAMES BURN *, is ſaid to have been the firſt preſentee in Scotland of his preſent Majeſty King GEORGE the III. having been admitted to this pariſh in May 1761. He has a ſtipend, *communibus annis*, about L. 80 Sterling, beſides a manſe and glebe of about 6 acres. An augmentation of ſtipend is in proceſs. The church and manſe were repaired in 1771.

Religious

* His predeceſſors were Meſſrs Wedderburn, Nairn, Ruſſell, Gellatly, and Beat: and it is remarkable, that they were all miniſters of this pariſh for much the ſame ſpace of time, about 13 or 14 years, and that all of them, ſave one, were tranſlated to other pariſhes. The preſent incumbent had it in his choice oftener than once to have followed their example, but preferred his preſent ſituation.

Religious Sects.—There are not many Diſſenters in the pariſh; only two Epiſcopalians, and a few Antiburgher Seceders, moſt of whom had left the Eſtabliſhed Church before the preſent incumbent was ſettled here. Some of them left the Seceſſion, and came to the pariſh church; but when the new mode of ſinging without reading the line was introduced, they again withdrew, and carried two or three individuals along with them. They are ſober and induſtrious, not at all ſo bigotted as are many of that ſect; they are very uſeful members of ſociety.

Poor.—There are no begging poor belonging to the pariſh, but many ſuch from Perth and other places. By theſe, and travelling tinkers, this part of the country is not a little oppreſſed. It is much to be regretted that each pariſh does not take care of its own poor, and hinder them from travelling abroad to other pariſhes. Beſides the number of penſioners on the poors roll, which ſometimes does not exceed 4, there are not a few who obtain a temporary ſupply of 10 s. 15 s. or L. 1, at a time when ſickneſs is in the family, or the head of it unable to work. Parents who are not able to pay for the education of their children, have them educated upon the poors funds, which are made up from the weekly collections on Sabbath, to which the ſeafaring people, of all others, contribute moſt liberally. The annual amount of the collections is above L. 14 Sterling. A farmer in the pariſh, at his death, ſome few years ago, left a legacy of L. 20 Sterling. This made a conſiderable addition to the fund, which has been more than doubled within theſe 30 years. It is managed by the kirk-ſeſſion with care and attention, without the leaſt expence to the fund.

Character.

Character.—They are generally ſober and induſtrious. A few years ago a ſpirit of ſmuggling too much prevailed in this corner, than which nothing is more ruinous to the health and morals of thoſe who are addicted to it *. There is reaſon to believe that little or no gain was made by that moſt miſchievous traffic, of the effects of which the miniſter, from time to time, did not fail to remind them from the pulpit. This ruinous traffic is now nearly annihilated among us; and happy were it for the nation that the temptations to it were leſs frequent and powerful than they ſometimes are. None of the people of this pariſh have been the ſubject of a criminal proceſs, nor have any of them emigrated.

* One young man, a tenant in the pariſh, was moſt unhappily addicted to it; in a few years he hurt many others, and ruined himſelf The laſt time he called at the manſe, he expreſſed his wiſh that he had followed the advice the miniſter had often given him.—Had he done this, he had probably ſucceeded as a tenant, and eſcaped thoſe miſeries which, by ſmuggling, he unhappily brought upon himſelf. He lay in a priſon for ſeveral months, reduced to great indigence. This is mentioned as a warning to others, who by ſmuggling hope to be made rich, but are far more likely to become ruined, and to entail miſery and miſchief on themſelves and others.

NUMBER V.

PARISH OF KILLEARN,

(COUNTY OF STIRLING, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR, PRESBYTERY OF DUMBARTON.)

By the Rev. Mr DAVID URE, M. A. *Minister, Glasgow.*

Situation and Extent.

THE parish of *Killearn* forms the western extremity of the Strath of Blane. This beautiful valley exhibits a landscape, replete with a great variety of striking objects. It is skirted by two ridges of hills, some of which are of considerable height. The fore ground is enriched by the water of Blane, meandring through fertile pastures and well cultivated fields; whilst the diversified prospect, extending over the parishes of Killearn, Drymen, Kilmaronock, Buchanan, *&c.* comprehends Lochlomond, Benlomond, Benliddie, the Grampian Hills, *&c. &c.* and at length is lost among the far distant mountains of Argyle and Perthshire, mingling their azure-coloured summits with the clouds. Vast masses of basaltic pillars, exhibiting extensive colonnades, arranged in almost every possible direction,

rection, come into view on the one hand, and a limpid ſtream, forming a delightful caſcade, on the other. Here a verdant wood, in variegated windings, ſkirts the ſides of the hills; and there a deep glen, hollowed out by the work of many ages, lays open to view not a ſmall part of the bowels of the earth. In one point of light may be ſeen the ruins of an ancient caſtle *, once the well fortified habitation of a rich and powerful family; and in another, a numerous flock, ſcattered like ſnowy ſpecks on the verdant declivities of the mountains. Few places in Scotland afford a greater diverſity of the grand and pictureſque ſcenes of nature, grouped together in ſuch pleaſing varieties. This pariſh is bounded by the pariſhes of Strathblane and Campſie, on the S. E.; by New and Old Kilpatricks, on the S. and S. W.; Drymen and Dumbarton, on the W.; Balfrone, on the N.; and Fintrie, on the E. It is by computation about 12 miles in length, from N. E. to S. W. and 2½, at an average, in breadth.

Population.—It is inhabited by 206 families, 56 of whom live in the village of Killearn, which contains 223 perſons. The 150 families reſiding in the country, reckoning five individuals to each, will include 750 inhabitants, making in whole 973 ſouls. The population in the year 1755 was 959. Soon after this time it greatly decreaſed, owing chiefly to the demolition of cottages, to each of which was commonly annexed a paſſle of two or three acres of land. Lately, however, from the rapid advance of trade, the population has been greatly on the increaſe. By the following table of births, as they ſtand inrolled in the parochial records, it will appear that the preſent population is not ſo great as at a century ago.

TABLE

* Duntreath, the property of Sir Archibald Edmonſtone of Duntreath, Baronet.

TABLE OF BIRTHS.

Dates.	Births.	Dates.	Births.
1695, -	37	1740, -	30
1696, -	32	1760, -	11
1697, -	22	1780, -	16
1698, -	47	1790, -	10
1700, -	35	1791, -	26
1720, -	30	1792, -	27

Gentlemens Seats, &c.—About a mile and a half south of the village is the *Place of Killearn*, anciently the seat of a cadet of the Montrose family, but lately of *Robert Scott of Killearn, Esq*, and now the property of *the Right Hon. James Montgomery, Lord Chief Baron for Scotland.* The present edifice, which is far from being large, was built in the year 1688. Numerous plantations, regularly disposed in form of clumps, belts, and wildernesses, beautify and shelter an extensive tract of pleasure ground round the house.

Croy, situated about a mile from Killearn place, received the greatest part of its present improvements, about 30 years ago, from its then proprietor, *Robert Muirhead, Esq; merchant, Glasgow.* About 50 acres around the mansion-house are laid out in planting, disposed in the most advantageous manner for shelter and ornament. Amongst the natural beauties of Croy may be mentioned *Dualt glen.* The sides of this delightful recess are very steep, and, for a long course, exhibit a great variety of trees and shrubs, grouped together in almost every conceivable form, whilst the under herbage displays not a few rare indigenous plants in great perfection. Foot paths, cut out alongst the windings of the banks, command, in various points of light, many beautifully diversified prospects. The head of the glen is terminated by a freestone rock, nearly perpendicular, about

60

60 feet in height, over which the rivulet of *Dualt*, falling precipitately into a deep Linn, forms a delightful caſcade, which adds not a little to the grandeur and ſolemnity of the ſcene. About half a mile from Dualt glen, and in the eſtate of Croy, is *Aſhdow*, which exhibits a ſcenery in many reſpects peculiarly ſtriking. It conſiſts of a high rock, over which the water of *Carnock* precipitately falls, and, by the work of many ages, has cut out for itſelf a deep and winding paſſage. The projecting rocks, on both ſides the water, are wild beyond deſcription. Nearly meeting at the top, in ſome places, they widen below into beautiful curvatures, naturally hollowed out in various directions. The romantic appearance of the rocks is ſet off to advantage by trees and ſhrubs hanging, in great profuſion, over the cleſts. The rivulet daſhing over the precipice, and rumbling through the deep-worn channel; the united harmony of a great variety of the feathered tribe; and the dark ſhade, which perpetually reſts upon a great part of this pictureſque ſcenery, conſpire to fill the mind of the beholder with the moſt pleaſing ideas of the grand, the delightful, and the ſolemn. The eſtate of Croy, now the property of *William Richardſon of Croy, Eſq; Profeſſor of Humanity in the Univerſity of Glaſgow*, is receiving daily improvements.

Ballikinrain, the property and ſummer reſidence of *Robert Dunmore of Ballindaloch*, Eſq; occupies one of the moſt pleaſant ſituations in this part of the country. The manſion houſe, which is of a modern conſtruction, is by far the moſt elegant and commodious dwelling-houſe in the pariſh. The eſtate, before it came by marriage into Mr Dunmore's poſſeſſion, belonged for ſeveral centuries to the *Napiers of Ballikinrain*. The laſt proprietor, John Napier of Ballikinrain, Eſq; was the *ſixteenth* of the name and family of Napier, who, in ſucceſſion, poſſeſſed the eſtate. It is now enriched with many agricultural improvements, eſpecially incloſures

incloſures and planting, which are highly ornamental as well as profitable.

On the eſtate of *Balglaſs*, likewiſe the property of Mr Dunmore, and adjoining to Ballikinrain, is a large dwelling-houſe or caſtle, of an antiquated conſtruction. It is reported that this place was anciently well fortified, and that *Sir William Wallace of Elerſlie*, the brave defender of his country, once found it a ſafe retreat in time of danger. This place is rendered conſpicuous by the *Corries* or *Curries of Balglaſs*. They are ſemicircular excavations, naturally hollowed out in the weſtern extremity of that ridge of hills, commonly known by the name of Campſie and Strathblane Fells. Some of the Corries are very ſpacious, being more than a mile diameter. In ſeveral places they beautifully exhibit the various mineral ſtrata, of which the mountains are compoſed.

At no great diſtance from Ballikinrain are *Balquhan* (vulgarly *Boban*) and *Carbeth*; the former, belonging to *Thomas Buchanan of Balquhan, Eſq*; and the latter to *John Buchanan of Carbeth, Eſq*. Around the manſion-houſes on both eſtates are plantations and incloſures to a conſiderable extent.

No ſpot in the pariſh, or perhaps in Scotland, has a better claim to the attention of the public, than the indiſputable birth-place of GEORGE BUCHANAN, the celebrated poet and hiſtorian. That great man, whoſe name is deſervedly famous through Europe, was born at a place called the *Moſs*, a ſmall farm-houſe on the bank of the water of Blane, and about two miles from the village of Killearn. The farm was the property of George Buchanan's father, and was for a long time poſſeſſed by the name of Buchanan. It is now the property of Mr William Finlay of Moſs, and holds of the family of Drummikill, from which

which George's anceſtors deſcended. The place is called the *Moſs*, becauſe it is ſituated in the vicinity of a peat-moſs, which is part of the farm. The dwelling-houſe, conſidered as a building, is very far from being conſpicuous; although it is no worſe, and probably never was worſe than the ordinary farm-houſes in this part of the country. Its appearance of meanneſs ariſes from its being very low, and covered with ſtraw thatch. Part of it, however, has been rebuilt, ſince the year 1506, when George was born. Mr Finlay is highly to be commended for preſerving, as much as poſſible, the ancient conſtruction and appearance of this far famed and much honoured houſe. The moſt ſuperb edifice would ſink into oblivion, when compared with the humble birth-place of George Buchanan. Long may the *Moſs of Killearn* afford mankind a ſtriking proof that the GENIUS of learning does not always prefer the lofty abodes of the great and powerful. It muſt, however, be remarked, that the parents of Buchanan, although not very opulent, yet were not in abject or indigent circumſtances. The farm, which conſiſts of a plough of land, was able, by the aid of induſtry and œconomy, to keep them eaſy. A place in the neighbourhood is, to this day, called *Heriot's Shiels*, ſo denominated from Buchanan's mother, whoſe name was Agnes Heriot, and who firſt uſed that place for the ſhielding of ſheep. It is reported, that he received the firſt rudiments of his education at the public ſchool of Killearn, which was for a long time in great repute, and much frequented. He afterwards, by the liberal aſſiſtance of his uncle George Heriot, after whom he was named, went to Dumbarton, Paris, *&c.* *&c.* to complete his ſtudies. A conſiderable number of old trees yet remain adjacent to the houſe; and are reported to have been planted by George when a boy. A *mountain aſh*, famous for its age

and ſize, was blown down a few years ago; but care is taken to preſerve two thriving ſhoots that have riſen from the old ſtool.

The gentlemen of this pariſh and neighbourhood, led by a laudable ambition to contribute a teſtimony of reſpect to their learned countryman, lately erected, by voluntary ſubſcription, a beautiful *Monument* to his memory. By ſuch public marks of approbation beſtowed upon good and great men, the living may reap advantage from the dead. Emulation is thereby excited, and the active powers of the mind ſtimulated by an ardour to excel in whatever is praiſeworthy. Buchanan's monument is ſituated in the village of Killearn, and commands an extenſive proſpect. It is a well-proportioned *Obeliſk*, 19 feet ſquare at the baſis, and reaching to the height of 103 feet above the ground. In the middle is a cavity of 6 feet ſquare at the bottom, gradually diminiſhing until it reaches the height of 54 feet, where it becomes ſo narrow as to receive the end of a Norway pole, which is continued to the top of the obeliſk. To this pole, the machinery for raiſing up the materials for building, was fixed. Owing to this peculiar mode of conſtruction, the monument is believed to be much ſtronger than if it were ſolid. The foundation was laid, in the month of June 1788, by the Reverend James Graham, miniſter of the pariſh. In the foundation-ſtone was depoſited a *cryſtal bottle* hermetically ſealed, containing a ſilver medal, on which was engraved the following inſcription;

In

In Memoriam,
Georgii Buchanani,
Poetæ et Hiſtorici celeberrimi:
Accolis hujus loci, ultra conferentibus,
hæc Columna poſita eſt, 1788.

Jacobus Craig, architect. Edinburgen.

This beautiful ſtructure is built of a white millſtone-grit found a little above the village of Killearn, and in the eſtate of the Lord Chief Baron. The quarry from which it was taken has been wrought for a long time paſt, and is very extenſive: It was known by the name of the Lettre-hill Quarry, from the name of the ground; afterwards it was called the Mill-ſtone Quarry, becauſe mill-ſtones were frequently taken from it; then the Houſe of Montroſe Quarry, becauſe it afforded ſtones for the Duke of Montroſe's houſe at Buchanan; now it is called the Monument Quarry. The ſtone is not of a very courſe grit, but is extremely hard and durable.

Gartneſs.—The *Pot of Gartneſs*, in the water of Enrick, has, for its beauty and ſingularity, always attracted the attention of ſtrangers. It is a deep linn, ſhaped like a caldron or pot, whence the origin of the name. It is occaſioned by the fall of the water over a rock that lies acroſs the river; the fall is not perpendicular, but is interrupted by three or four breaks. This romantic and well known ſpot affords no little entertainment to the angler; as the ſalmon and trout from Lochlomond, being frequently unable to force their way over the rock, which requires two or three great leaps quickly made, are detained in the linn, and

and taken ſometimes in great numbers.—At this place, but on the Drymen ſide of the water*, is *Gartneſs mill*, which has long maintained a high reputation for grain and lint. The remarkable ſervices done the public by this mill during the great froſt in the year 1740, were ſo ſeaſonable, that they will not for a long time be forgotten. It fortunately happened, that in 1739 the mill received a new wheel of a very good conſtruction. It was made of black ſaugh (willow) that grew at Touch, a few miles from Stirling. This kind of wood, of all others, was then preferred for making mill-wheels; its excellency was ſuppoſed to conſiſt in toughneſs and durability. Owing to the ſtrength and other properties of the wheel, Gartneſs-mill was, by the aid of a conſtant fire, kept a-going during the ſeverity of the froſt, when all other mills, for a great way round, were entirely ſtopped. Corn at that time was brought to Gartneſs from great diſtances, and thereby many families were kept from ſtarving.—Adjoining the mill are the remains of an old houſe in which JOHN NAPIER of Merchiſton, inventor of the logarithms, reſided a great part of his time (for ſome years) when he was making his calculations. It is reported, that the noiſe of the caſcade being conſtant, never gave him uneaſineſs, but that the clack of the mill, which was only occaſional, greatly diſturbed his thoughts. He was, therefore, when in deep ſtudy, ſometimes under the neceſſity of deſiring the miller to ſtop the mill, that the train of his ideas might not be interrupted. He uſed frequently, in the evening, to walk out in his night-gown and cap. This, with ſome things which to the vulgar appeared rather odd, fixed on him the character of a *warlock*. It was firmly believed, and currently reported that he was in compact with the devil; and that

* The Enrick at this place divides Killearn from Drymen pariſh.

that the time he ſpent in ſtudy was ſpent in learning the *black art*, and holding converſation with *Old Nick*. But John Napier was not the only great man who, in days of ignorance, was ſuppoſed to be a wizard; nor were the vulgar in this neighbourhood the only people who believed in witchcraft.

Quadrupeds, Birds, &c.—This pariſh is not remarkable for any of the more uncommon productions of nature. The fox, badger and foumart, are no ſtrangers to ſome of the glens and rocks. Aſhdow is particularly noted for the haunts of owls, hawks, kaws, and wild cats. The currie of Balglaſs has long been remarked for an eagle that hatches her young in that ſequeſtered and rocky ſpot. Herons have their periodical haunts in ſeveral places of the pariſh, as at Balglaſs and Corbeth, where in tall fir-trees they annually bring forth their young. The king's-fiſher has been obſerved at Croy, on the banks of the Blane, a river much reſembling the muddy and ſlow-flowing waters chiefly frequented by that beautiful bird. Jays, magpies and bulfinches abound in the plantations at the hill of Killearn, and ſome of the neighbouring banks.

Fiſh.—Few places in Scotland afford better entertainment for the angler than this pariſh, there being a great number of rivulets and brooks abounding with trout, of which Lochlomond affords in great plenty a perpetual ſupply. Salmon, pike, and eels of different kinds, frequent the Enrick and Blane; but no fiſh in greater numbers, at a certain ſeaſon of the year, than the braiſe (*roach*, Eng.) Vaſt ſhoals come up from Lochlomond, and by nets are caught in thouſands. Their emigrations from the loch, however, are only for the ſpace of three or four days about the

the end of May. The parr is, through the whole year, an inhabitant of the Enrick; but it is in greateſt perfection about the beginning of harveſt. Some of them more than a foot in length, have been caught at Gartneſs.

Plants, Trees, &c.—Great varieties of indigenous plants ornament the numerous glens, rocks, and muirs. The Juniper grows in ſome places to a great ſize, and is commonly very prolific. The ſtone bridge over the Blane, at the Moſs, is founded upon a layer of juniper buſhes. It is believed that this plant, when in a wet ſituation below ground, reſiſts corruption for a very long time. It was believed, during the plague in Scotland, that people who lived in the immediate neighbourhood of places abounding with juniper, or who burned it plentifully in their houſes, were not readily, if at all affected with the plague. The Scottiſh Gaul, *(Myrica Gale, Linn.)*, a valuable vermifuge, abounds in ſeveral places of the pariſh. Were the qualities of this oderiferous ſhrub more generally known, its cultivation would probably be attended with conſiderable profit. Amongſt the plants which are not generally very common, are the Feſtuca *ovina vivipara*; Echium *vulgare*, Imperatoria *Oſtruthium*, Parnaſſia *paluſtris*, Polygonum *Penſylvanicum*, Adoxa *Moſchatellina*, Eryſimum *Barbarea*, Chryſoſplenium *Alternifolium*, Saxifraga *hypnoides*, Matricaria *Parthenium*, Empetrum *nigrum*, Aſplenium *Scolopendrium*, A. *Ruta muraria*, Polypodium *Lonchitis*, P. *phegopteris*, P. *fragile*, Lycopodium *clavatum*, L. *Selaginoides*, L. *Selago*, L. *Alpinum*.

The Sambucus *nigra* (elder tree, Eng.) is no ſtranger in many places of the pariſh. Some of the trees are very well ſhaped, and by the natural bending of the branches cauſe an agreeable ſhade, or bower, exhibiting an example of the propriety of the name given to that ſpecies of plants

in

in Scotland, namely, the *Bower-tree.* A great number of beautiful oaks ornament the eſtate of Ballikinrain. The largeſt, and probably the oldeſt in the pariſh, grows in full vigour at Killearn place. The trunk is 12 feet circumference, and ſupports many ſtately branches that widely diſplay a foliage uncommonly pleaſant. No production of the vegetable kingdom in this pariſh is, however, more remarkable than two large yew trees at Ballikinrain. One is the berry bearing kind, the other not. The trunk of the former is 8 feet in circumference, of the latter, 10 feet 8 inches. They are only 9 feet ſeparate from each other, making the appearance, at a diſtance, of a ſingle tree only; they are about 60 feet in height. Nine large branches ſtrike off from the male plant, at the height of 6 feet from the ground: they make a beautiful curve downwards, ſo that their extremities touch the earth, and cover an area of 18 yards diameter, forming a moſt agreeable ſhade, impenetrable at all times to rain. As there is no account, even by tradition, when they were planted, their age muſt be great. They are frequented by a conſiderable number of the golden creſted wren, *(Motacila Regulus)*, the ſmalleſt bird in Europe, and, except the humming bird, probably in the world. They build their neſts under the curving extremities of the branches, where the foliage is thickeſt. Their neſts are conſtructed with exquiſite art, and are ſuſpended under the twigs, like ſo many little baſkets from the ceiling of a room.

This part of the country is far from being deſtitute of exotic plants in a high degree of perfection. This is particularly the caſe with reſpect to the larix, a great number of which adorn the banks and incloſures at the houſe of Killearn. They are about 60 years old, being among the firſt of the kind that were planted in the open field in Scotland; they are generally 3 feet diameter at the thickeſt,

and

and have grown to the tallneſs of nearly 100 feet. For beauty and ſize very few, if any of the kind in Scotland ſurpaſs them. In the vicinity of the larixes are many beautiful ſpruce and beech trees, of uncommonly large dimenſions. The oriental mapple, the ſweet cheſnut and tulip trees have, in this place, arrived to great perfection and beauty.

Minerals, &c.—With reſpect to the mineral kingdom, few things in this pariſh merit particular attention. The higher parts of the hills conſiſt chiefly of a decompoſible whinſtone, containing, in ſome places, ſmall veins of an hæmatitical iron ore; but the quantity yet diſcovered is too ſmall to become an object of importance. In ſome places on the ſides of the hills, are found many ſucceſſive ſtrata of till and limeſtone. Theſe are beautifully diſplayed in ſeveral places where large excavations have been made by means of water. The limeſtone is of two kinds, and is wrought but in ſmall quantities. The preferable kind is not diſpoſed in regular compact ſtrata, but rather in irregular maſſes, imbedded in a reddiſh clay blotched with white. The inferior kind is called camſtone, from its being chiefly found in glens. It is diſpoſed in thin, but numerous regular ſtrata, ſeparated from each other by a bluiſh till, that, when acted upon by the weather, falls down into clay. The camſtone, when broken, has a ſmooth ſurface; it contains a great proportionable quantity of clay in its compoſition; and after it is ſufficiently burnt, and whilſt red hot in the fire, it muſt be ſlacked with water poured upon it, otherwiſe it will not readily fall down into lime. The ſtrata are ſo thin, that they are not thought to be worth working. Fragments of the ſtone, which fall down from the ſides of the glens, are occaſionally gathered for uſe. Some varieties of it, which crumble down by expoſure to the weather, might, without being burnt, ſerve for the purpoſe

purpoſe of manure. An extenſive ſtratum of an excellent millſtone grit enriches the eſtate of Balglaſs, and ſupplies the country to a great diſtance with millſtones. The quarry began to be regularly wrought about 40 years ago; it is now cut down to the depth of 24 feet, and can afford ſtones of any ſize, and of 3 different qualities. A very thick ſtratum of ſoft freeſtone, the grit not fine, prevails in all the lower grounds of the pariſh; its depth has not yet been diſcovered. It is of a red colour, but variegated with blotches, and ſtreaks of white and grey. It is not of the beſt quality for building, and affords no ſymptoms of any valuable mineral in the vicinity. Several trials, by *boring* and *ſhanking*, have been made to find coal, but unſucceſsfully; and I do not think that any where in the pariſh the ſymptoms of that uſeful foſſil are favourable. Amongſt the ſtones in this pariſh may be mentioned a jaſper, which abounds in the banks of Enrick, and likewiſe in the pariſhes of Buchanan, Balfrone, and Fintry. The colours are brown, red and green intermixed, in the form of blotches and ramifications; ſome nodules reſemble the bloodſtone, whilſt others contain a conſiderable portion of the zoned agate, which abounds in many places of Scotland. The jaſper takes a fine poliſh, and has been cut into ſeals, buttons, *&c.*

Climate.—The climate is wet and cold, but the air is not inſalubrious. The inhabitants are not remarkably ſubject to any epidemical diſeaſe. Many of them live to a conſiderable old age: There are four perſons at preſent between 80 and 90 years of age. John Buchanan of Provanſtoun, aged 104, died here *anno* 1792.

Agriculture.—The moſt of the hilly part of the pariſh is yet in a ſtate of nature, having never been plowed; but

the lower grounds are generally arable. The former contains ſeveral extenſive moors and moſſes, which are chiefly occupied in ſheep-walks; the latter, (not the half of the extent of the pariſh), is for the moſt part incloſed with ſtone-dikes and hedges. The ſoil is, for the moſt part, of a ſtiff clay that becomes exceſſively hard when dry, and generally has a wet cold tilly bottom. In ſome diſtricts, however, are a few fields of a loamy ſoil, which produce good crops of oats, barley and peaſe. The climate is very unfavourable for the culture of wheat; but the cultivation of lint, potatoes, ryegraſs and clover, is attended with profit. There is, however, more cropped with oats than with all the reſt put together. The cultivation of turnip in the open field is not practiſed, although, from ſome few trials that were made on that profitable root, there is reaſon to believe that it might be attended with conſiderable advantage in ſeveral thouſand acres in the pariſh. Extremely few of the lately improved implements of huſbandry have here been brought into practice. The common Scotch plough, wrought with four horſes, is in general uſe. The farmer, before agriculture can be brought to any tolerable degree of perfection, muſt direct his care to free his land from under water, which almoſt univerſally prevails. But the practice of draining, although very much needed, meets here with ſmall attention.

Few places afford better opportunities for irrigation than this pariſh. The country is abundantly ſupplied with excellent water that pours down from the adjacent heights in ſprings and ſmall rivulets, which could eaſily be directed over the numerous declivities. This mode of improvement was a few years ago tried with ſucceſs in Mr Dunmore's eſtate. The land over which the water was made to flow, produced graſs uncommonly luxuriant, and retained through the whole year a fine verdure.

Attention

Attention is beginning to be paid to the breeding of milch-cows by croſſing the Ayrſhire with the native breed, which approaches nearly to the Highland. The native cows are generally of a black colour, with white faces; and weigh, when fat, about 16 ſtone heavy weight. The milk of a cow *per* day in ſummer, is commonly about 4½ pints Scotch. The milk is moſtly made into butter, that brings at an average 9 d. *per* lb. The ſkimmed milk is made into cheeſe that is ſold from 4 s. to 5 s. *per* ſtone. Grazing cattle for ſlaughter is, in many parts of the pariſh, carried to a conſiderable extent, and is attended with profit. The moorland farms are ſtocked with about 1400 ſcore of the black and grey faced ſheep. A few Spaniſh ſheep were, in the beginning of 1793, brought by Mr Dunmore to Ballikinrain, and are thriving very well. Horſes for the draught are of the Lanarkſhire breed, and are chiefly purchaſed at Glaſgow and Rutherglen markets. Not a few of the farmers, however, are in the practice of rearing horſes on their farms. Two-wheeled carts, and waggons with one horſe, are very generally uſed; but ſledges are found to be neceſſary in the moorland farms.

The arable land is in general divided into farms of about 60 acres each. Theſe are let in leaſes chiefly of 19 years duration. The lands in the eſtate of Killearn are, for the encouragement of the farmer, generally let in leaſes of three 19 years; and the conſequences are far from being bad, for the tenants are, on the whole, doing very well. Care, however, is very properly taken by the Lord Chief Baron, to give this encouragement only to perſons of active and induſtrious habits, and who have a ſpirit for agricultural improvements. Long leaſes to an indolent farmer, even although at certain terms there may be a proportionated riſe in the rent, only encourages his inſuperable indolence. He ſeeks no more than merely to ſcrape together as much as will barely

barely pay the rent, and keep his family in life. The land is worn out to the laſt; his domeſtics are trained up in habits of negligence and ſloth; a bad example is ſet before the community;—and Poverty ſtares with her meagre countenance, in the houſe and in the field.

The moorland farms are ſeveral hundred acres in extent. The great diſparity of ſoil and ſituation, occaſions a ſimilar diſparity of the rent of land. From 10s. to 15s. *per* acre is a common rent for arable land; but ſome of it is no higher than 6s. or 7s. Some places, eſpecially on the banks of Blane and Enrick, where the ſoil is very good, are uſually rented at L. 1, 10s. *per* acre; but in many parts of the moors an acre is not worth more than 6d. and in the moſſes not worth 1d. The increaſe of manufactures in the neighbourhood, and the advancement of agricultural improvements, for which there is great room in the pariſh, will probably raiſe conſiderably the value of land. The pariſh is ſupplied with ſeven corn-mills and two lint-mills, which have abundance of water all times of the year. To theſe mills the moſt part of the pariſh yet continues to be aſtricted.

Trade.—Every encouragement is given the farmer by having a profitable and ready market in *Balfrone*, to which he has an eaſy acceſs. The late rapid population of that newly erected village, has greatly improved the adjacent country. This pleaſing alteration ariſes wholly from a variety of manufactures, recently introduced into the neighbourhood, chiefly by Robert Dunmore of Ballindalloch, Eſq. This public-ſpirited gentleman, inſpired with the ambition of doing good to mankind by employing them in uſeful induſtry, began his improvements in the year 1788, by eſtabliſhing a muſlin manufactory at Balfrone. This village, which is in the immediate neighbourhood of Kil-

learn,

learn, and which formerly contained no more than ſix or ſeven families, was at that time laid out according to a regular plan, and now contains no fewer than 220 families. The houſes, many of which are 2 ſtories high, are in general covered with ſlate. The *Ballikinrain* cotton-mill was erected by Mr Dunmore in 1792. It is conſtructed for ſpinning woollen as well as cotton; the former for the carpet, the latter for the muſlin manufacture. This work, at preſent carried on under the management of Mr Robert Macmorran from Douglaſs, employs about 100 perſons, moſt of whom reſide in the neighbourhood of the mill. The greateſt manufacturing work in the pariſh is *Enrick printfield*, which was begun in 1792. The operative part of the buſineſs is carried on by Mr J. F. Moriar, a Swiſs, under the firm of Meſſrs Monteith, Warren, and Company, Glaſgow. The buildings are conſtructed to contain 16 printing preſſes, to go by water, and 72 tables for block-printing, beſides boiling-houſes, dye-houſes, *&c.* for executing buſineſs on a very extenſive ſcale. Every part of the apparatus is new, and of the moſt approved conſtruction, eſpecially the waſhing wheels, which are not ſurpaſſed by any in Europe. One of the bleaching-fields, conſiſting of a plain of 15 acres, is ſecured from the inundations of Enrick by an artificial bank, the raiſing of which coſt a conſiderable ſum of money. Buſineſs was begun here in the month of June 1793. But unfortunately an entire ſtop was almoſt put to the work by the preſent ſtagnation of trade, which has communicated its baneful influence through all this country. The whole work at preſent (Sept. 1793) employs no more than 250 perſons, the moſt of whom reſide in Balfrone.

Manufactures, Wages, &c.—The manufactures in the pariſh, beſides what are carried on in the places already mentioned,

mentioned, are not very conſiderable. Their ſtate may, in general, be known from the following liſt of tradeſmen and artificers:—Blackſmiths, 4; coopers, 4; dyers, 4; flax-dreſſers, 3; gardeners, 2; hoſiers, 11; maſons, 7; ſhoemakars, 12; tailors, 5; weavers, 28; wrights, 14.—Maſons and wrights receive 1 s. 8 d. a-day, during ſummer, and from 1 s. to 1 s. 2 d. in winter. Tailors work in their employers houſes, each receiving, beſides his victuals, 10 d. for his day's work. The hoſiers are all employed by manufacturers in Glaſgow, and are paid by the piece. A day labourer has from 8 d. to 1 s. a-day, with victuals; and 1 s. 3 d. or 1 s. 4 d. without victuals. A man-ſervant for country work has from L. 3 to L. 5 Sterling, *per* half-year, beſides bed, board and waſhing; a woman-ſervant has about L. 2. All the ſhoemakers are engaged in *cuſtomary work*, a common expreſſion for home conſumpt. In this alſo all the weavers are at preſent employed. That ſo many looms ſhould be engaged in cuſtomary work for ſo ſmall a number of people, ceaſes to be a wonder when it is conſidered that very little cloth of foreign manufacture is worn in the pariſh. The inhabitants continue the practice of making cloth for their own wearing. The men are decently clothed, both for *kirk and market*, with well-dreſſed *Scots cloth*, commonly of a brown, grey, or blue colour. In this they think themſelves to be warmer and more comfortable than in the beſt Engliſh ſuperfine. The womens apparel is chiefly a variety of ſtuffs of their own manufacture; as *Bengals*, a kind of cloth of linen warp, and cotton weft; *drugget*, compoſed of linen warp and woollen weft; *harns*, and other coarſe linens of various kinds, beſides plaiding, both tweeled and plain, for gowns and petticoats. Their bed-cloaths, as blankets, ticking, *&c.* are wholly of their own making. The linen yarn they ſpin from lint of their own raiſing, and the woollen from fleeces the pro-

duct of ſheep farms in the pariſh. They practiſe the arts of ſcouring and bleaching their woollen and linen, which, for the ſafety of both yarn and cloth, they prefer to the methods uſed in ſome bleachfields. A lye made of breckins (*pteris aquilina*, LINN.) is of great uſe to them, both for waſhing and bleaching. The method of preparing this lye is very ſimple. The breckins are cut when arrived at their full growth, and always when dry. As ſoon as convenient after being cut, they are mixed with dried broom; both are laid in a heap, and burned. No more broom is uſed than what is neceſſary to aſſiſt in thoroughly burning them. Along with the broom is ſometimes added the dried roots of cabbages and green kail. The aſhes of the whole are carefully collected, and boiled in water until all the alkali is diſſolved; then the lye is poured off for uſe. In this lye the yarn or cloth is boiled for a certain time; and the bleaching is thereby greatly accelerated. Not a few of the inhabitants dye a conſiderable variety of colours, from materials the product of the country. In the proper management of their cloth, however, they are greatly aſſiſted by *Mr William Jamiſon*, dyer and clothdreſſer at Runroy near Gartneſs, who has brought the dyeing and dreſſing of Scots cloth to a conſiderable degree of perfection. Cloth is ſent him to be dyed and dreſſed from Glaſgow, Stirling, and all the country round. Mr Jamiſon manufactures plaids, duffles, blankets, *&c. &c.* for ſale; and his demands are daily increaſing.

In addition to what the induſtrious women of Killearn make for their family wear, they bring a conſiderable quantity of cloth to the market. As much uſually of every web is expoſed to ſale, as defrays the out-laid expences for weaving, *&c.* For this overplus they find abundance of cuſtomers, either in the city of Glaſgow, or

at three fairs annually held in the village of Killearn. Scots cloth is ſold from 10 d. to 5 s. 6 d. *per* yard; harn from 8 d. to 1 s. 5 d.; linen from 1 s. 6 d. to 3 s.

By a community ſo actively employed, little time is waſted in idleneſs, intemperance, or political cabals. There are, however five public houſes in the pariſh, but they are chiefly frequented by travellers. Two turnpike-roads, lately made through the pariſh, are of great ſervice to the inhabitants. The ſtatute-labour, which is moſtly raiſed in money at 18 s. Sterling *per* L. 100 Scots of valued rent, is applied to private roads, which are ſtill far from being in a good condition.

The greateſt impediment to improvements in this part of the country is the ſcarcity of good fuel. The neareſt coal is in Campſie or Baldernock, at the diſtance of 10 or 12 miles. The price at the hill is 1 s. 6 d. the cart-load, containing about 12 cwt. The carriage comes to about 4 s. The ſcarcity of coal is ſupplied by *turf* and *peat*, for obtaining which the feuars and tenants have a ſervitude on the moors. The turf is procured by ſetting fire to the graſs and heath about the month of June, and then raiſing the ſurface with what is called a *ſlaughter ſpade*. This practice greatly injures the moors by depriving them of their verdure, which neceſſarily requires ſeveral years to be renewed. The loſs, however, is in ſome meaſure repaid by the great quantity of aſhes for manure, procured from this kind of fuel.

Religion.—With reſpect to the ſtate of religion, few obſervations occur that merit the attention of the public. The people in general regularly attend divine ſervice in the pariſh church. There are only about 12 adherents to the different parties of Seceders. Several reſpectable clergymen, ſince the reformation from Popery, have ſucceſſively been miniſters of the pariſh, as Meſſ. Forſter, Gilleſpie, Sempell and Craig,

Craig, before the Revolution in 1668. Since that time the people have been happy under the ſucceſsful miniſtry of Meſſrs George Park, James Bain, James Morriſon, and the preſent incumbent, James Graham; who was ordained *anno* 1768. The church was rebuilt in the year 1734, and is conveniently ſeated. Mr John Finlayſon has, for nearly 40 years, officiated as parochial ſchoolmaſter. The ſalary is L. 8, 13 s. yearly. The wages for Engliſh, writing, and arithmetic are only 1 s. 6 d. *per* quarter. Three or four private ſchools have, for ſome time paſt, been kept in different parts of the pariſh; the numerous rivulets and deep glens by which the country is interſected, render, to children living at a diſtance, the acceſs to the parochial ſchool always dangerous, and often impoſſible.

State of the Poor.—Paupers uſually on the ſeſſion-liſt are from 10 to 15, who, according to their need, receive from 4 s. to 16 s. *per* quarter. A few indigent families receive, after the ſacrament, a little ſupply, as the miniſter and elders ſee proper. The funds for anſwering theſe charitable purpoſes amount annually to about L. 30, the moſt of which is collected in boxes handed by the elders through the church, immediately before pronouncing the bleſſing in the forenoon. None of the poor are permitted to beg. To be ſo poor as to need aſſiſtance from the kirk-ſeſſion is in this, and moſt other places of Scotland, where poor taxes are not eſtabliſhed, accounted a diſgrace, as ſuch a ſtate is commonly conſidered as proceeding, for the moſt part, either from indolence or miſmanagement. Every attempt to eradicate, or even to weaken ſuch a ſenſe of ſhame, is doing a manifeſt injury to ſociety.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—Superſtition yet continues to operate ſo ſtrongly on ſome people, that they put a ſmall

quantity of ſalt into the firſt milk of a cow after calving, that is given any perſon to drink. This is done with a view to prevent *ſkaith*, if it ſhould happen that the perſon is not *cany*. A certain quantity of cow dung is forced into the mouth of a calf immediately after it is calved, or at leaſt before it receives any meat; owing to this, the vulgar believe that witches and fairies can have no power ever after to injure the calf. But theſe, and ſuch like ſuperſtitious cuſtoms, are every day more and more loſing their influence.

At *Blareſſen Spout-head*, if we believe tradition, a bloody battle was fought between the Romans and Scots; ſeveral ſtones ſet on edge have continued ever ſince to diſtinguiſh the ſpot. The tenant, a few years ago, would have carried all the ſtones away, had he not been ſtrictly prohibited by Mr Buchanan of Carbeth, the proprietor of the ground, who had got notice of his intentions.

A very large cairn ſome time ago was demoliſhed in the muir of Killearn, and the ſtones uſed for building dikes. This ancient ſepulchral *tumulus* concealed, in the bottom of it, a coffin, compoſed of ſtones ſo very large that they could not eaſily be removed, without being firſt broken in pieces.

A phenomenon not unworthy the attention of the public, is an old woman, who, owing to exceſſive grief, about 20 years ago, became deranged in her judgment. She was then about 50 years of her age. The hair of her head ſoon afterwards became thin and very grey, in which ſtate it continued till about 5 years ago, when it gradually turned black, thick, and ſtrong. She generally goes with her head bare, and has not yet recovered the right uſe of her reaſon.

The *kippering* of ſalmon is ſucceſsfully practiſed in ſeveral parts of the pariſh. All the blood is taken from the fiſh immediately after it is killed; this is done by cutting the

the gills; it is then cut up at the back, on each ſide the bone or chain, as it is commonly called. The bone is taken out, but the tail, with two or three inches of the bone is left; the head is cut off; all the guts are taken out; but the ſkin of the belly is left uncut; the fiſh is then laid, with the ſkin undermoſt, on a board, and is well rubbed, and covered over with a mixture of equal quantities of common ſalt and Jamaica pepper. Some of this mixture is carefully ſpread under the fins to prevent them from corrupting, which they are exceedingly ready to do, eſpecially if the weather is warm. A board with a large ſtone is ſometimes laid upon the fiſh, with a view to make the ſalt penetrate into it more effectually. In ſome places, as Dumbarton, inſtead of a flat board, a ſhallow wooden trough is uſed, by which means the brine is kept about the fiſh; ſometimes two or three ſalmon are kippered in the ſame veſſel at the ſame time, one being laid upon the other. The fiſh, with the board or trough, is ſet in a cool place for two or three days; it is then removed from the board, and again rubbed with ſalt and pepper, after which it is hung up by the tail, and expoſed to the rays of the ſun, or the heat of the fire. Care is previouſly taken to ſtretch out the fiſh by means of ſmall ſticks or hoops placed acroſs it from ſide to ſide. After it has remained in the heat a few days, it is hung up in the kitchen, or other dry place, till uſed. Every method is taken to keep the fiſh from putrefaction. It is an error to ſuppoſe, as ſome have ignorantly done, that kippered ſalmon means corrupted ſalmon.

Some people, in order to give the kipper a peculiar taſte, highly reliſhed by not a few, carefully ſmoke it with peat reek, or the reek of Juniper buſhes. This is commonly done by hanging it up ſo near a chimney in which peats, or Juniper buſhes are burnt, as that it receives the ſmoke.

ſmoke. There it remains two or three weeks, by which time it generally acquires the taſte. Salmon kippered in this manner uſually ſells 2 d. *per* lb. higher than when freſh.

This pariſh and neighbourhood were, for a long time, unhappily expoſed to the plundering inroads of large companies of migratory freebooters, who for ſafety lurked in the borders of the Highlands. Theſe depredators made frequent incurſions into the pariſhes of Buchanan, Balfrone, Killearn, Dumbarton, Kilpatricks, *&c.* and carried off all the cattle they could find. This infamous practice was continued ſo late as the year 1743, and perhaps later. Long before that, however, ſome gentlemen near the border of the Highlands, undertook, for certain ſums of money, to protect the property of their neighbours, or to make a full recompence for what was ſtolen from them. The money paid for this protection was called the *Black Mail*, and was paid agreeably to a bargain concluded upon by the two contracting parties. One of the original contracts remains in the poſſeſſion of Mr Dunmore at Ballikinrain. As this contract is not only a literary curioſity, but is perhaps the only contract of the kind now exiſting, and as it exhibits a true picture of the ſtate of the country ſo late as the year 1741, and likewiſe leads us to form an idea of the happy alteration that has ſince taken place, the ſubjoined copy of it *verbatim* will not, it is preſumed, be unacceptable to the public, eſpecially as the report of the Black Mail is ſo generally, yet ſo imperfectly known *.

* Copy of a Contract for keeping a Watch on the Borders of the Highlands. *anno* 1741.

It is contracted, agreed, and finally ended betwixt the parties underwritten, to witt; James and John Graham elder and younger of Glengyle, on the one part, and the gentlemen, heritors, and tenants, within the

the ſhires of Perth, Stirling, and Dumbarton, who are hereto ſubſcribing, on the other part, in manner following: Whereas, of late years, ſeveral perſons within the bounds aforeſaid have been very great ſufferers through ſtealing of their cattle, horſes, and ſheep; for preventing whereof the ſaids James and John Grahams, with and under the conditions, proviſions, and for the cauſes after ſpecified, hereby bind and oblige them, conjunctly and ſeverally, their heirs, executors, and ſucceſſors, that the ſaid James Grahame ſhall keep the lands ſubſcribed for, and annexed to the reſpective ſubſcriptions, ſkaithleſs of any loſs, to be ſuſtained by the heritors, tenants, or inhabitants thereof, through the ſtealing and away taking of their cattle, horſes, or ſheep, and that for the ſpace of ſeven years complete, from and after the term of Whitſunday next to come; and for that effect, either to return the cattle ſo ſtolen from time to time, or otherwayes, within 6 moneths after the theft committed, to make payment to the perſons from whom they were ſtolen, of their true value, to be aſcertained by the oaths of the owners, before any Judge-ordinary; providing always, that intimation be made to the ſaid James Graham, at his houſe in Correilet, or where he ſhall happen to reſide for the time, of the number and marks of the cattle, ſheep, or horſe ſtolen, and that within 48 hours from the time that the proprietors thereof ſhall be able to prove by hable witneſſes, or their own or their herds oaths, that the cattle amiſſing were ſeen upon their uſual paſture within the ſpace of 48 hours previous to the intimation, as ſaid is; and declaring, that it ſhall be ſufficient if the heritors or tenants, be-ſouth or be-eaſt the town of Drymen, make intimation in writing at the houſe of Archibald Strang, merchant in Drymen, of their loſſes in the before mentioned, to a perſon to be appointed by the ſaid James Graham of Glengyle to attend theire for that purpoſe, and in his abſence to the ſaid Archibald. And further, it is ſpecially condeſcended to and agreed upon, that the ſaid James Grahame ſhall not be bound for reſtitution in caſes of ſmall pickereys; declaring, that an horſe or black cattle ſtolen within or without doors, or any number of ſheep above ſix, ſhall be conſtructed to be theft, and not pickerey. And with regard to horſes and cattle ſtolen within the bounds aforeſaid, and carried to the ſouth, the ſaid James Grahame obliges him, that he ſhall be as ſerviceable to the gentlemen ſubſcribers in that caſe as he poſſibly can; and if he cannot recover them, he ſubmits himſelf to the diſcretion of the heritors in whoſe ground the theft is committed, whether he ſhall be liable for their value or not.

And it is hereby expreſsly provided and declared by both parties, That in caſe of war within the country, that this preſent contract ſhall thenceforth ceaſe and become void; for the which cauſes, and on the other

other part, the heritors and tenants hereto ſubſcribing, with and under the proviſions and declarations above and under written, bind and oblige them, their heirs, executors, and ſucceſſors, to make payment to the ſaid James Grahame of Glengyle, or to any perſon he ſhall appoint to receive the ſame, of the ſum of L. 4 yearly during the ſpace foreſaid, for ilk hundred pound of ye valued rent of the lands annexed to their reſpective ſubſcriptions, and that at two terms in the year, Whitſunday and Martinmas, by equal portions, beginning the firſt terms payment thereof at the ſaid term of Whitſunday nixt, for the half year immediately following, and ſo furth, to continue at the ſaids terms during the continuance of theſe preſents: provideing always, like as is hereby ſpecially provided and declared, that it ſhall be leiſome and lawful for both parties to quitt and give up this preſent contract at the end of every year if they think fit, intimation being always made on the part of the ſaid James Grahame at the reſpective kirk-doors within the bounds aforeſaid, on a Sabbath day, immediately after the forenoon's ſermon, a moneth before expiration of the year: and on the part of the heritors and other ſubſcribers, by a letter to the ſaid James Grahame from them, and another from him, acknowledgeing the receipt thereof, or the atteſtation of two wittneſſes, that the letter was left at his houſe, or was delyvered to himſelf two moneths before expyring of the year; it being always underſtood, that any ſubſcriber may quitt and give up the contract for his own part, whether the reſt concur or not at the end of each year, as ſaid is. And both parties bind and oblidge them and their foreſaids to perform the premiſſes *hinc inde* to others under the penalty of L. 20 Sterling, to be payed by the party failzier to the party obſerver, or willing to obſerve their part thereof, attour performance. And moreover, for the ſaid James Grahame's further encouragement, and for the better reſtraining the evil practices above mentioned, the ſubſcribers hereby declare, that it is their intention that all ſuch thieves and pickers as ſhall be apprehended by the ſaid James Grahame of Glengyle, or occaſionally by any other perſon within the bounds aforeſaid, againſt whom there is ſufficient proof, ſhall be proſecute according to law, and brought to juſtice. And for greater ſecurity, both the ſaids parties conſent to the regiſtration hereof in the books of Council and Seſſion, or others competent, that letters of horning on ſix dayes, and other executorials needfull, may paſs hereon as effeirs. And to that effect they conſtitute

their procurators, &c. In witneſs whereof, both the ſaids parties have ſubſcribed theſe preſents, conſiſting of this and the preceding ſheet, written on ſtamped paper, by Andrew Dick, chyrurgeon in Drymen, at Balglas,

glas, the tuentyeth day of Aprile Im vije and fourty-one years, by Robert Bontein of Mildovan, before William M'Lea his ſervant, and Mr William Johnſton ſchoolmaſter at Balglas, the ſaid Robert Bontein having filled up his firſt date, and witneſſes names and deſignations. At Ballikinrain the tuintie-firſt day of foreſaid moneth and year, by James Napier of Ballikinrain, before Alexander Yuill his ſervant, and Gibert Couan, tenant in Ballikinrain, the ſaid James Napier having filled up this ſecond date, witneſſes names and deſignations. Att Boquhan the tuenty-ſecond day of Aprile, moneth forſaid, and year, by Hugh Buchanan of Balquhan, before theſe witneſſes, John Paterſon and Robert Duncan, both tenants yr. Att Glins, the tuenty-ſeventh day of moneth and year foreſaid, before theſe witneſes, Walter Monteath of Keyp, and John Buchanan younger of Glins. Att Eaſter Glins, the twenty-ſeventh day of moneth and year foreſaid, before theſe witneſſes, Walter Monteath of Keyp, and Thomas Wright younger of Eaſter Glins, ſubſcribet be Alexander Wright of Peuſid. Att Ammere, the firſt day of Mey ſeventin hundred and fortie-one years, befor thees witnes, Arſbelt Leckie of Arnmere, and Walter Menteath younger of Keyp, Walter Monteath, att above place, day, date, year, and witneſſes, by James Key portioner of Edenbelly, month, date, place, and year aforeſaid, before theſe witneſſes, Walter Monteath therein, and Walter Monteith younger of Keyp, and by Robert Galbraith at Fintrie, fourth May, before Robert Farrie of Balgrochan, and James Ure, tenant in Hilltowne of Balgair.

Will. Johnſton, witneſs.
William M'Lea, witneſs.
Gilbert Cowan, witneſs.
Alexander Yuill, witneſs.
John Paterſon, witneſs.
Robert Duncan, witneſs.
Walter Monteath, witneſs.
John Buchanan, witneſs.
Thomas Wright, witneſs.
Archibald Leckie, witneſs.
Walter Monteith, witneſs.
Alexander Wright, witneſs.
Archibald Leckie, witneſs.
Walter Monteath, witneſs.
Walter Monteath, witneſs.
Robert Farrie, witneſs.

Robert Bontein of Mildovan, for my lands of Balglas in the paroch of Killern, being Three hundred and fifty pound of valuation; and lands of Provanſtoun, in the paroch of Balfron, Ninety-ſeven pound ſeven ſhilling valuation.

James Napier of Ballikinrain, for my lands in the paroch of Killern, being Two hundred and ſixtie pound of valuation. And for my Lord Napier's lands in ſaid paroch, being Three hundred and twentie-eight pound of valuation. And for Gulcreuch's lands in the paroch of Fintrie, being Seven

James

James Ure, witneſs.
John Buchanan, witneſs.
James M'Grime, witneſs.

hundred and twentie ſeven pound of valuation. And for ſaid Culcreuch's lands, in the paroch of Balfrone, being One hundred and ten pound of valuation.

Hu. Buchanan of Balquhan, for my lands of Boughan and Brunſhogle, in the paroch of Killearn, being One hundred and ſeventy-three pound of valuation.

Moſes Buchanan of Glins, Two hunder ſextie-two pund valuation.

John Wright of Eſter Glins, Sixtie-ſix pound val.

Alexander Wright of Puſide, On hundred and foure pound and ſix ſhiling and eghtpenny Scot valuation.

Walter Monteath of Kyp, Three hundred pounds valuation.

James Key, portioner of Enblioy, for ſextiey-ſix pond Scots valuation.

Robert Galbraith, portioner of Edinbely, for thritie-three pound Scots valuation.

Alexander Buchanan of Cremanan, for my land of Cremanan, in the paroch of Balfron, and being Two hundred and ſixty-eight pound of valuation.

And the ſaids James and John Grahames have ſubſcribed theſe preſents at Buchanan, the eleventh of June Iaj vij and fourty-one years, before David Græme of Orchill, and John Smith writer in Buchanan: Declareing, that notwithſtanding of the date of the ſaids James and John Grahame's ſubſcription, yet it ſhall be underſtood, that the obligations on both partys by this contract ſhall and do commence from Whitſunday Iaj vij and fourty-one, in regard it was agreed betwixt the partys, that the ſaids obligations ſhould commence at that term. The date, witneſſes

neſſes names and deſignations, with this declaration, being wrote by the ſaid John Smith, and declared to be part of this contract.

Da Græme, witneſs. Ja. Grahame.
John Smith, witneſs. John Graham.

It would appear, from the following letter, that this contract was not diſadvantageous to Mr Grahame:

Sir, *Balikinrain, May* 25 1743.

Notwithſtanding of the contract entered into betwixt ſeveral gentlemen of the ſhyres of Stirling and Dumbarton, you, and I, annent keeping of a watch, whereby you was to pay yearly four *per cent.* of valuation; yet I now agree with you for three *per cent.* for the lands you have contracted for; and that for the firſt term of Whitſunday, and in time comeing during the ſtanding of the contract. And I am, Sir, your moſt humble ſervant, JA. GRAHAME.

Leaving the reader to make what reflections on this curious contract he pleaſes, I ſhall only obſerve, that Mr Grahame, in this affair, is to be conſidered as a more ſucceſsful keeper of the peace, defender of juſtice, and guaranteeing power, than moſt who have aſſumed theſe characters; for by his activity and vigilance, in a few years, juſtice, honeſty and peace were, in this part of the country, eſtabliſhed on a firm and laſting foundation, and continue to operate without the aid of contracts, watches, or guarantees.

NUMBER VI.

PARISH OF NEWBURN,

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF FIFE, PRESBYTERY OF ST ANDREW'S.

By the Rev. Mr LAWRIE, *Minister.*

Extent, Situation, Surface.

THE parish of Newburn, is, on an average, about 3½ English miles long, and 2 broad, is situated in the Presbytery of St Andrew's, and Synod of Fife, bounded on the E. by Kilconquhar; on the W. by Largo; by part of both these parishes on the N. and on the S. by the sea. The soil in general is very fertile, and produces excellent crops. Almost the whole land in the parish is arable and inclosed. The late Mr Craigie of Lawhill (now Hall-hill) began inclosing, and the farmers seem fully convinced of its advantages. Wheat grew here more than half a century ago; but a far greater quantity is raised now than before. Turnips and potatoes were introduced many years ago likewise; but the former, owing to the natural

natural fertility of the ſoil, and the improved ſtate of agriculture, have been cultivated with remarkable ſucceſs. The luxuriant turnip-crops in this diſtrict in favourable ſeaſons, might arreſt the attention of the traveller, who has viſited more fortunate climes.

Population and State of the Poor.—The population in 1755 was 438 ſouls. The number of ſouls was found by the miniſter, in the courſe of his parochial viſitation in April 1794, to amount exactly to 456. From a recent enumeration it appeared, that the inhabitants under 10 years of age were 142. The annual average of births for the laſt 10 years appears from the regiſter to be 12. The annual average of marriages is 3, and that of deaths 6. Though the climate is favourable to longevity, and epidemical diſtempers ſeldom prevail, infection is communicated when any malignant diſeaſe does appear, by the common people reſorting from all quarters to the apartments of the ſick, without adopting any means which would tend to prevent its diffuſion. Far be it from any Chriſtian to diſcourage innocent expreſſions of friendſhip to the diſtreſſed; yet the attendance of many idle viſitors on the ſick is extremely culpable. They not only hurt *them* in ſeveral reſpects, but alſo endanger their own lives, and thoſe of their neighbours. On theſe accounts, the indiſcriminate practice of viſiting the ſick, whether it proceeds from an impertinent curioſity, or a miſtaken principle of benevolence, is often attended with the moſt fatal effects. But wherever prejudice or cuſtom, in ſpite of ſalutary remonſtrance, leads "every one to do that which is right in "one's own eyes," many of conſequence will do wrong.

The number of poor perſons on the pariſh-roll is ſeven, who are ſupported by the collections on Sunday, and the intereſt

intereſt of a conſiderable ſum of money appropriated to them. The relief granted to each individual varies according to the circumſtances of the caſe. Beſide their ſtated allowance, occaſional ſupply is given where it is judged neceſſary. The poor are maintained in their own houſes; and, on an average, the annual ſum expended for their ſupport, may be about L. 13 Sterling. But relief is not confined to theſe penſioners alone. The eſtabliſhed proviſion for the benefit of the indigent, enables the church-ſeſſion to extend their charity, and receive the applications of families who are reduced to the neceſſity of ſoliciting aſſiſtance, in conſequence of accidental misfortunes. Church-ſeſſions are generally allowed to be the moſt faithful adminiſtrators of the funds for the maintenance of the poor; and indeed, their judicious arrangements have merited the approbation of the moſt enlightened part of the community.

Eccleſiaſtical State of the Pariſh.—It has been often remarked, that Newburn, for many years paſt, has been a nurſery of Seceders; and remarked with ſurpriſe, that a ſmall arm of the ſea ſhould be the boundary between *moderation* and *fanaticiſm*. Cameronians, Independents, perſons belonging to the Burgher Congregation, and alſo to what is called the Relief Congregation, are to be found here. The number of Independents is about 20. They are the only ſect who have a place of meeting for public worſhip in the pariſh. The members of the Relief Congregation are about the ſame number; the Burghers amount to 12; and the number of Cameronians is confined to two. It is pleaſing, however, to a philoſophic and a pious mind to perceive, that the intolerant party-ſpirit which has too often characterized ſectaries, is far leſs prevalent

valent than in former times. Diverſity of religious ſentiments does not prevent ſocial intercourſe, and mutual good offices.

In deſcribing the general character of the people, it is but juſtice to pronounce them ſober, regular, induſtrious. Humanity, too. it muſt be mentioned to their honour, holds a conſpicuous place in the catalogue of their virtues. It is but juſtice alſo to add, that of late no addition has been made to the number of Seceders in this pariſh; on the contrary, one of the elders of the Relief Congregation has returned to the Eſtabliſhed Church: rational religion ſeems to be gaining ground; and the ſmall remainder of enthuſiaſm will moſt probably die with them who cheriſh it.

The patroneſs of the pariſh is Mrs Halket Craigie of Hall-hill. There are 7 heritors; at preſent only 3 of them reſide in the pariſh. The benefice here is one of thoſe which greatly requires increaſe; and a proceſs of augmentation is about to be commenced. The money-ſtipend at preſent is L. 40 : 11 : 1 Sterling, and the victual-ſtipend conſiſts only of 7 bolls of wheat, 32 bolls 1 peck of bear, and 24 bolls, 3 firlots, 3 pecks of oats. The glebe ſcarcely includes 4 acres. The victual ſtipend, at an average, is but L. 40 Sterling *per annum*, as part of the lands which pay ſtipend are of an inferior quality.

School.—The parochial ſchool is of conſiderable repute. Several gentlemen's ſons reſort to it for education, which they receive on very moderate terms. Engliſh is taught for 1 s. 6 d.; writing and Engliſh for 2 s.; arithmetic for 2 s. 6 d.; and Latin for 2 s. 6 d. *per* quarter. The local ſituation is eligible in two reſpects: It is favourable both to their health and their morals. The air is ſalubrious; and

and the youth are not exposed to the contagion of those vices which unhappily prevail in large towns.

About the middle of the last century, John Wood, Esq; proprietor of the lands of Orkie, destined that property after his death for erecting a free grammar school in the parish of Drumelry, *alias* Newburn, and maintaining six poor scholars thereat. The rent of these lands is now about L. 140 Sterling *per annum*, and the parochial schoolmaster educates and maintains the poor scholars on Mr Wood's *mortification*, as it is called in Scottish law language; for he officiates in a double capacity, being chosen both by the heritors and the patrons of the mortification already mentioned. By the deed, 'Sir Thomas 'Gourlay of Kincraig,' &c. 'the minister of Newburn,' &c. and 'their successors whatsomever, are appointed 'lawful, undoubted patrons of the foundation and mor-'tification in all time coming.' Boys of the surname of *Wood* are always to have a preference.

Price of Labour and Provisions.—The yearly wages of farm-servants is about L. 7 for men, and L. 3 for women, beside their victuals. The wages of the day-labourer is 1 s.; in time of harvest they are rather higher; for mowing hay he gets, *per* day, 1 s. 6 d. The day wages of a mason is from 1 s. 6 d. to 2 s.; of a tailor 1 s. when he furnishes provisions to himself; and when victuals are provided for him, 6 d.

The average price of beef is $3\frac{1}{2}$ d. *per* lb.; of veal, $3\frac{1}{2}$ d.; and of mutton the same. The price of a hen, at an average, is 1 s.; of a duck, 9 d.; of a pig fit for table, 5 s. Butter is about 8 d. *per* lb. But the price of labour and provisions, in general, is more than doubled within these 30 years.

Improvements

Improvements ſuggeſted.—Beſides putting the roads in better repair, the eſtabliſhment of a more regular market would alſo be a very conſiderable advantage in this part of the country. Another diſadvantage, under which not only this, but the adjacent pariſhes labour, is the weight of bread being left entirely to the will of the baker. Wherever this is the caſe, the conſumer is liable to ſuffer loſs; and the very exemption from any regulation on this point is a temptation to injuſtice. A remedy certainly exiſts ſomewhere, and it ought to be ſpeedily applied. To remove the local inconvenience complained of, or rather the general evil, might not the bread be occaſionally inſpected by ſome proper perſon appointed for that purpoſe by the juſtices of the peace? And wherever the weight is found deficient, let the bread be given to the poor. The very idea of being ſubject to the juriſdiction of the juſtices of peace, or of feeling the conſequences of the complaints lodged with them, would operate as a powerful reſtraint on men who have it in their power to impoſe both on the rich and the poor, it is ſaid, by charging what they chuſe for a loaf, which might be purchaſed in other places, where there is a check and controuling power over bakers, for a far more reaſonable price. While ſome of the people complain of imaginary grievances under the happy conſtitution where they live, it is hoped the real one now ſpecified will be removed as ſoon as it is poſſible.

Antiquities.—There are veſtiges of the eaſt part of the church having been a Roman Catholic chapel.

If we may give credit to the records and traditions which have been tranſmitted to us of that early period, the Culdees, who are thought to have been the firſt regular clergy in *Scotland*, had a church and reſidence in this pariſh

so early as the time of *Malcolm Canmore*. The earliest records which we have of these monks mention Hungus the first King of the Picts, as their Great Benefactor; and St Andrew's, or its neighbourhood, as their chief residence. Brude, the last King of the Picts, made a donation to them of the isle of Lochleven; Kirkness was given to them by *M'Beth*, son of *Finlay*; and their Majesties King *Malcolm*, and his Queen *St Margaret*, granted to them the village of *Balchristie* *, (or, as it has been interpreted by some, the Town of Christian), in this parish. The present proprietor of the village (Mr Christie of Balchristie) informs me, that some years ago he dug up the foundation-stones of an old edifice near the western wall of his garden, and in the very place where, according to the best accounts, the church of the Culdees stood. Some say, this was the first Christian church in Scotland; and, indeed, the name of Balchristie, as above explained, and the high probability of the Culdees landing first on the adjacent inviting shore, give considerable countenance to the tradition.

Additional Observations.—This situation has been long admired for variegated scenery and an extensive view. The scene now before me, consisting of woods and waters, and hills and dales, is such as the writer of romance might have delighted to feign. *Hall-hill* at present appears in ruins; but a new mansion house, as is believed, will soon add to the beauty of these rural wilds. *Hæ latebræ dulces etiam, si credas amænæ.* The gentlemen are elegantly lodged themselves; and their tenants have far better farm-houses than in former times. All ranks, indeed, seem to participate

* *Vide* Guthrie's History of Scotland, and the authorities to which he refers.

participate more of the comforts and conveniencies of life than their fathers—more than many of themſelves did in the days that are paſt. From the communications of the clergy, this ſeems to be the caſe through all the land, which is one proof, among many others, that might be produced, of the futility and the falſehood of thoſe complaints which ſome malcontents have been pleaſed to advance againſt the government of Great Britain. But the period has now fortunately arrived when, in conſequence of the vigilance of a vigorous adminiſtration, and the good ſenſe of an enlightened people, *Britain is ſaved*, and *Villany*, it is preſumed, will no longer dare to addreſs Ignorance; the period has now fortunately arrived, when the eye of loyalty is gladdened to ſee, that they who had flocked to the ſtandard of ſedition are ſcattered: Yes! the auſpicious period has arrived, when the Genius of our favoured iſle, in all her native majeſty and magnanimity, can proclaim: "My children abhor the ſanguinary fac-"tions of France. They diſavow their principles, and de-"teſt their practice. Principles ſo baſe they leave for miſ-"creants to teach, and madmen to believe. The ſeaſon of "deluſion is paſt, and Britons love their native land. Many "wanderers have returned to the *Houſe of their Fathers.*"

NUMBER VII.

PARISH OF PORTREE,

ANCIENTLY KILTARAGLAW,

(County of Inverness, Synod of Glenelg, and Presbytery of Sky.)

By Mr Alexander Campbell, *Schoolmaſter, Portree.*

Name, Situation, Extent, &c.

PORTREE was a part of Snizort till the year 1726, when it was erected into a ſeparate pariſh; and is ſo called from its excellent harbour of the ſame name. Portree, or rather *Port a Rio*, (the King's Harbour), is a Gaelic word, compounded of *Port*, an Harbour, and *Rio*, a King. This name was probably given to it as far back as the thirteenth century, in the reign of Alexander III. of Scotland, when *Haco*, King of *Norway*, after his dreadful overthrow at the Largs by Alexander Stuart, *great-grandfather* of him, who, the firſt of that *name*, reigned in Scotland, put in there with the remains of his ſhipwrecked fleet; or, as ſome would have it, not till the times of James V. in conſequence

conſequence of that monarch's putting in there, in his *tour* through the Hebrides. It is ſituated in the preſbytery of Sky, Synod of Glenelg, and County of Inverneſs. Its length from N. to S. is 9 computed miles, and its breadth throughout 3, beſides the iſlands of Raaſay and Ronay, that form a great part of it; the former of which, extending all along the coaſt, is of the ſame length, and from 3 to 1½ miles broad. Ronay is about 4 miles long, and near 2 broad; and the whole pariſh may contain an area of 41,900 ſquare acres. It is bounded on the N. by Snizort; on the E. by the channel or ſound that divides Raaſay and Ronay from Applecroſs and Gairloch; on the S. by Strath; and on the W. by an extenſive moor that ſeparates it from Bracadale.

The variety of its hills, vallies, and plains, and the proſpect of the Sound, which, excepting in ſome places on the coaſt, where it opens to the view, preſents itſelf in the likeneſs of lochs or lakes, give the country a very agreeable and pictureſque appearance, particularly in the milder ſeaſons of the year; and throughout this part of the Highlands, ſcarcely any two places can boaſt of ſituations more beautiful and pleaſant, than the place of *Portree* and *Clachan*, or Kirktown, in the ſouth end of Raaſay, the proprietor's ſeat. On the W. Raaſay riſes with a ſeemingly eaſy aſcent, to a great height above the ſea, and terminates in a ſmall, round, and green hill, flat at the top, and faced with rock, called *Dun-lan*, from its ſimilarity, perhaps, at a diſtance, to theſe Daniſh forts, that go under the general name of *Dunes*, ſo frequent in the Highlands and iſlands; the meaning of the laſt part of the name is not certainly known. On the E. ſide of the iſland, the coaſt is very high, ſteep, and nearly approaching to a perpendicular; as is alſo the coaſt of Portree, on each ſide the mouth of the harbour; but more eſpecially on the N. where huge cliffs

of ſtupendous height, and magnificently grand, riſe one above another *. At the bottom of theſe rocks above the ſhore, for more than 1-4th of a mile in length, is a declivity which, though ſteep, of difficult acceſs, and every where interſperſed with large looſe ſtones that fall from the cliffs above, yields ſuch excellent paſture, that the gentleman who poſſeſſes the farm to which it belongs, at the riſk of loſing ſome of them over the precipices, ſends there every ſummer a part even of his milk cows. Here as well as over all Sky, from the height of the hills and proximity of the ſea, the air ſeldom continues long of the ſame temperature; ſometimes it is dry, oftener moiſt, and in the latter end of winter and beginning of ſpring, cold and piercing; at an average, three days in twelve throughout the year, ſcarcely free from rain, far leſs from clouds. Theſe, attracted by the hills, ſometimes break in uſeful and refreſhing ſhowers; at other times ſuddenly burſting, pour down their contents with tremendous noiſe, in impetuous torrents that deluge the plains below, and render the ſmalleſt rivulet impaſſable; which, together with the ſtormy winds ſo common in this country, in the months of Auguſt and September, frequently blaſt the hopes, and diſappoint the expectations of the huſbandman. Snow has been often known to lie on the ground from three to ſeven weeks; and on the higheſt hills, even in the middle of June, ſome ſpots of it are to be ſeen. To this various temperature of the air, and uncertainty of weather, the fevers and agues, headachs rheumatiſms, colds, and dyſenteries, which are the prevalent diſtempers, may be aſcribed. That it is far, however,

* The entrance to the loch on the north ſide, preſents a cragg reſembling Saliſbury Craig, and is called Nicolſon's rock, from the family which inhabits the farm, who are ſaid to have occupied it ſince the time of the Danes.

however, from being unwholſome, is ſufficiently evinced by experience; for the inhabitants are, in general, as ſtrong and healthy, and arrive at as advanced an age, as thoſe who live in milder climates, and under a ſerener ſky. The gout is not known as a diſtemper affecting the inhabitants.

Hills, Woods, Lakes, and Rivers.—The moſt remarkable hill in the pariſh, is that which, W. S. W. of the harbour, riſes above it, firſt, with an eaſy and gentle acclivity, but becomes ſteeper nearer the top. It is called *Ait Suidhe Thuin*, or Fingal's ſitting place, becauſe on the top of it is a green hillock, on which, ſays tradition, Fingal was wont to ſit in ſtate, point out the different courſes, and ſurvey his heroes purſuing the chace. From this hillock, in a clear day, the lofty hills of Cuillin and Strath, the pariſhes of Duiriniſh and Bracadale, the Long Iſland, North and South Uiſt, and Barra may be ſeen; as likewiſe the weſt ſide of Troterniſh, Portree, Raaſay, Applecroſs, Loch-Carron, and the interjacent ſeas. The ſides of the hill are covered with ſeveral farms of different ſizes; and, except in ſome places N. and S. and towards the top, which is either rocky, or covered with heath, the whole is good paſture or arable ground. Nearly oppoſite to this hill, at a mile's diſtance, S. E. of the harbour, riſes *Bein-Dean-a-bhaig*, or the hill of his defence, having alſo on its top a green hillock, called *Cruachan Mhic Swain*, (Macſwain's eminence), remarkable only for its ſimilarity to that on the top of *Ait Suidhe Thuin*, excepting the tradition, that a ſon of *Swain*, or *Sueno*, a Daniſh or Norwegian king, lies buried there, may be thought deſerving of notice. On the ſide of *Bein-Dian-a-bhaig*, that looks towards Raaſay, and which is extremely ſteep, riſes a number of rocks of conical form, green at their tops, or covered with heath; between

tween theſe rocks run ſmall hollow vales, where ſheep and goat find paſture; and at the bottom of the hill, on the ſame ſide, are ſeveral caves in which ſea-fowl and wild pigeons neſtle, and into ſome of which the ſea, at high water, enters. The hill itſelf, on account of its height and peculiar form, is an infallible mark of the ſituation and place of the harbour. On the ſlopes of *Ait Suidhe Thuin*, N. W. from the harbour, are to be ſeen the remains of a natural wood, conſiſting chiefly of birch and alder, which about 20 years ago, it is ſaid, was in a tolerable good condition, but is now much decayed. About 30 years ago, ſome firs were planted on the farm of *Scorribreæ*, north ſide of the entry to Portree; but, on account of its eaſterly expoſure, and the ſea air, they did not thrive well. No more than 500 or 600 trees, well ſheltered, have arrived at any degree of perfection. In Raaſay, there are two or three ſpots of natural wood, which, being uſually well kept, are of no ſmall uſe to the inhabitants and their neighbours, and of conſiderable emolument to the proprietor. The late Raaſay planted ſeveral ſpots near his houſe, of which the parts better ſheltered have done well; thoſe more expoſed have thriven but indifferently.

There are many freſh water lochs, of which two only are worthy of notice, *Loch-fad* and *Loch-leathan*, or the Long Loch and Broad Loch, one of them being long, and the other ſhorter, but much broader. They are in the north end of the pariſh, very highly ſituated, of conſiderable extent, and contain great plenty of white and red trout, flounder, and eel. The trout of *Loch-leathen* are in general very large, ſome of them weighing from 1 to 2, or 2¼ lb. They have no communication with the ſea, but one from *Loch-leathen*, over a very high and extraordinary ſteep precipice, which forms a ſingular and curious caſcade, that from the ſea below appears beautiful and grand be-

yond

yond deſcription. The moſt conſiderable rivers are thoſe of *Higichan* and *Glenbhargil*, which ſcarcely deſerve to be mentioned, but for the ſalmon caught in them in autumn and the latter end of ſummer. The former, formed by many ſtreams riſing in the hills of *Cuillin* and *Strath*, run through a glen that divides Mingniſh in Bracadale from the ſouth end of Portree, and diſcharges itſelf into an inlet of the ſea, called *Loch-ſligichan*, two miles weſt of Sconſer. Having no bridge, in times of heavy rains the ſtream is ſo violent and impetuous, that travellers dare not approach it. The latter derives its ſource from ſeveral ſmall lochs in the moor N. W. of *Higiedan*, and after having run 2 miles through it, continues its courſe further for a mile and a half along the valley at the foot of *Ait Suidhe Thuin* into *Portree Loch*.

Antiquities and Curioſities.—There are two *Dunes*, or Daniſh forts, of round form, that bear marks of a very high antiquity; one old caſtle, formerly the ſeat of the Lairds of Raaſay; and two Roman Catholic chapels. One of the dunes is ſituated on the coaſt; the other, inland. Of this laſt, ſcarcely 6 feet above the foundation remain, and within it is full of rubbiſh; the other is in a more entire ſtate, and, like moſt of the ſame kind in the Highlands and iſlands, ſeem to have been built by the Daniſh or Norwegian invaders, rather as watch towers and ſtrong holds, to receive and ſecure their plunder, than as places of conſtant or comfortable habitation. *Caſtle Broichin*, ſituated near the north end of Raaſay, on the eaſt coaſt, is a land-mark well known to mariners. The rock on which it ſtands, nearly round, and covering an area of little more than 70 feet ſquare, is about 40 feet high, except in one place, where was the ſtair that led to it; and is itſelf, caſtle-like, placed on another rock, 60 feet at leaſt above the level of the

the ſea. It is compoſed of different kinds of burnt ſtone, lime, and ſhell, that have all the appearance of being jumbled together, ſome time or other, by a volcanic eruption, and is of ſuch firm and ſolid conſiſtence, that the largeſt hammer, wielded by the ſtrongeſt arm, could ſcarcely make any impreſſion upon it. There are ſeveral rocks of the ſame kind in that part of the iſland; one of which, more curious than the reſt, riſes higher than that on which the caſtle ſtands, cloſe by it, like an old and ruinous wall, from 5 to 8 feet broad, and 40 long, and in moſt places it is covered with ivy. This curious rock, on account of its ruinous and decayed appearance, was called *Broichin*, and from it the caſtle got its name. The caſtle was built with ſtone and lime, is two ſtoreys high, beſides an attic one; the rooms are all very ſmall, except one, ſuppoſed to be the kitchen, and two others, about 11 feet ſquare, and as many high, in which are chimneys. In the middle was a ſmall open court, in which was a well, but whether ſupplied with water from a fountain in the hill above, or from the rock itſelf, is not known. It is not long ſince the laſt part of the roof came down, and ſome broken joiſts ſtill remain ſticking out in the ſides of ſome of the rooms. John Garbh is ſaid to be the laſt who dwelled in it. This John Garbh was one of the predeceſſors of the preſent Laird of Raaſay, and lived in the times of James VI. of Scotland. He was remarkably ſtout and athletic, of extraordinary perſonal ſtrength and valour, and therefore was ſurnamed *Garbh*, a word which is expreſſive of luſtineſs and ableneſs of body. Many are the ſtories related regarding his acts of proweſs and fortitude, as likewiſe of ſeverals of his countrymen, who are ſaid to have been in general of more than ordinary ſize and ſtoutneſs, but bordering rather on the marvellous, ſeem not altogether worthy of much credit.

With

With regard to the Roman Catholic chapels, no man alive remembers to have ſeen any of them with a roof on them; the walls are pretty entire. One of them is in *Kirktown* in Raaſay, and is ſurrounded with a plantation of trees. In one of its windows are the bones of a man, amazingly large, preſerved by the inhabitants with a kind of religious care, as a monument of the great ſtrength and ſize of their forefathers, though the preſent generation is in theſe reſpects but little ſuperior to their neighbours. For the ſame reaſon they ſhew, about the middle of the iſland, near the high road, a large round ſtone, which they ſay *John Garbh*, the foreſaid chief, and one or two of his people, uſed to lift on their knees: Such is its weight, that ſcarcely could the united ſtrength of two of the ſtouteſt men now to be found in the country be able to raiſe it one inch from the ground. On the right hand, coming into Portree between the towering cliffs above mentioned, and where the fir was ſome time ago unſucceſsfully planted, is a high rock, waſhed at the foot in ſome places by the ſea; on the top of this rock is a beautiful plain, conſiſting of near 4 acres of good arable ground; and above it is a ſteep declivity, almoſt equally high with the rock below. Near the weſt end of this plain is the other Roman Catholic chapel formerly mentioned; and there, before Portree was erected into a ſeparate pariſh, and ſome time afterwards, was the only burying ground in this end of the barony of Troterniſh; but now, on account of its retired ſituation, it is almoſt entirely given up, a new place of interment being marked out at the church of Portree, about 45 years ago, where the whole people have at length begun to bury their dead. Down through the declivity two oblique paths were made to the plain and chapel; and two others lead from the ſhore, one at each end of the rock below. In different parts of the plain are ſprings of excellent water;

and at the bottom of a rock, near the top of the declivity above, is a cave, ſuppoſed to be very deep, into which, farther than 12 yards, few have ever thought proper to enter. Near 15 yards within its mouth it becomes darker, and begins to deſcend; if a ſtone be thrown down here, it is for ſome time heard to make a kind of rattling noiſe, as if it were tumbling down a ſtone ſtair, to the ſound of which the cave echoes extraordinary loud; but whether, when the ſound ſeems to ceaſe, the ſtone reaches the bottom, or the cave takes a different direction, cannot be determined. About 1¼ mile from hence, along the ſhore, down towards the north, are two other caves that merit particular attention. One of them is extremely narrow without; but within becomes very ſpacious and high; capable of containing with eaſe at leaſt 500 perſons. Below its mouth, up from high water mark to the level of the cave, the hollow rock is faced with a perpendicular wall, of large plain ſtone, about 12 feet high, having ſeveral ſteps ſo narrow, that only one man can aſcend at a time. Within, the air freely circulates; in the middle is a well; and if they had no fire arms, one man could eaſily defend the paſſage againſt a hoſt of foes: ſo that it ſeems to have been deſigned both by nature and art, as a place of ſecure retreat, though, if the tradition be true, it proved otherwiſe to one party that retired to it for ſafety. For the ſtory goes, that in the troubleſome and barbarous times, when the neighbouring diſtricts plundered and deſtroyed each other, and the weak were always a prey to the ſtrong, many often retreated to this cave as a place of concealment and ſecurity. At one time, however, they within, deeming themſelves, from their ſituation, too ſecure, were negligent in defending the paſſage. Their enemies got intelligence they were there, and ſurpriſing them in the night, filled the mouth of the cave with timber and moiſt heath, and then ſetting

fire

fire to it, allowed none to eſcape, but all were either ſmothered to death in their ſleep, or miſerably periſhed in the flames. In confirmation of this tradition, a man, not long ſince dead, found, about 60 years ago, a large braſs kettle in a dark corner in the farther end of the cave, and bones of different ſizes are ſtill to be ſeen in it. It abounds in *ſtalactites*, which partly hang from the arch above, and partly fall down; many of them having ſeveral holes through and through, and are great curioſities. The other cave is not far diſtant, and is ſuppoſed to be ſeveral miles deep. It is ſaid of this cave, that, a very long time paſt, a piper, and four other men, with two maſtiffs and lighted candles, went in to it for the purpoſe of inveſtigation, and to find its depth; but that none of them returned to give any information regarding it. The piper, ſays the ſtory, was heard at *Loch-fad*, (more than a mile diſtant), playing a tune, purporting, that the candles went out, his companions were loſt, and himſelf never returned. This is not the only cave in Sky, concerning which ſuch ſtories are told; but with what degree of credit they ſhould be received, every man may judge for himſelf. Among the number of natural curioſities may juſtly be reckoned the caſcade above mentioned. The ſtream from *Loch-leithan*, which, in that part, is the boundary between the eaſt ſide of Snizort and this pariſh, running over a very high precipice, as already obſerved, and breaking, in white foam, on the top of another rock below, forms a fall of water beautiful and magnificent in the extreme. Within the caſcade the rock is gradually hollowed, almoſt from the top, into a wide ſpace, where a great number of men might, with eaſe, ſit round a table, without being in the leaſt incommoded by the water falling without. To this place, till of late, an eaſy path led through the declivity on each ſide, but now ſuch quantities of looſe earth and gravel fall from

from above, that it is rather of difficult acceſs, more particularly on the ſouth ſide.

Birds, and other Sea and Land Animals.—Here are no wild or domeſtic animals which are not common to the neighbouring pariſhes. The wild birds of all ſorts moſt common in the country are, Solan geeſe, gulls, cormorants, cranes, wild geeſe, and wild duck; eagles, crows, ravens, rooks, cuckoos, rails, woodcocks, moor-fowl, partridges, plover, wild pigeons, and blackbirds, owls, hawks, ſnipes, and a variety of ſmall birds. In mild ſeaſons, the cuckoo and rail appear in the latter end of April; the former diſappears always before the end of June; the latter ſometimes not till September. The woodcock comes firſt in October, and frequently remains till March. The tame ſorts of fowl are geeſe, ducks, turkies, cocks, pullets, and tame pigeons. Of quadrupeds, there are black cattle, horſes, ſheep, goats, dogs, cats, rats, and mice. The total number of black cattle, from one year old and upwards, is 1954; of horſes, 362; of ſheep, 1828; of goats, 156. There are likewiſe a few red deer; and the fox uſually makes havoc among the ſheep. There is no fox-hunter in this barony; but there is a certain ſum collected yearly with the rents, for fox-money, which, at the year's end, is diſtributed among all that may be active to deſtroy that hurtful animal, in proportion to the number they individually kill. Two ſpecies of ſerpents are to be found in the hills of this country, whoſe bite, though not fatal, is very venomous, attended with much pain and great ſwelling, and often confines the patient more than ſix weeks to the houſe, which probably would not be the caſe, if medical aſſiſtance were timeouſly called for. Some of them are met with above 24 inches long. The one has yellow ſpecks; the other black, whoſe bite is the moſt venomous, and, unleſs properly

properly managed at firſt, is very dangerous. The head of the ſerpent that inflicts the wound, mixed with certain herbs, and applied to the parts that are moſt affected, is reckoned good to carry off the poiſon, and abate the ſwelling. There have been inſtances of cattle wounded by them in the tongue or lips that never recovered. Of amphibious animals, ſeals and otters are frequent here; the value of whoſe ſkins, as well as of the oil made of the fat of the ſeal, is well known. Whales and cairbans, or ſun-fiſh, come in ſometimes to the Sounds after their prey, but are rarely purſued with any ſucceſs. The fiſhes commonly caught on the coaſt are herrings, ling, cod, ſcate, haddock, makerel, lythe, ſye, and dog-fiſh; this laſt is of little or no uſe for food, unleſs among the poorer ſort of people, but its liver is of value on account of the excellent oil which is made of it. The average price of ling at home is L. 13, 13 s. *per* ton; when ſold, one by one, if freſh, the price is from 3 d. to 5 d.; if cured, from 5 d. to 7 d. The barrel of herrings ſeldom ſells under 19 s. which is owing to the great difficulty of procuring ſalt, even ſometimes at any price; and the ſame cauſe very often hinders many from fiſhing more than is ſufficient for their own uſe. The obvious method of remedying this, and which would be attended with infinite advantage to the Highlands and iſlands, is ſo well known, and has been already ſo often fully and ably treated of by others, that to enlarge upon it here would be ſuperfluous. *Syes* under one year old are called *cuddies*, and are caught in great quantities in the latter end of harveſt, throughout the winter, and beginning of ſpring. There are two ways of fiſhing the *cuddie*; the one is by means of a rod, from the top of which, ſuſpended by a line conſiſting of half a dozen hairs or threads in thickneſs, hangs a ſmall hook, on which bait being artfully fixed, it is let down into the ſea; in that manner an expert fiſher catches ſeveral hundreds in an evening,

evening. The beſt and moſt expeditious way of catching the *cuddie*, when it is in greater plenty on the coaſt, is with a ſort of creel, called *jabh*. The *jabh* commonly conſiſts of three or four ſtrong rods, from 8 to 10 feet long, laid acroſs each other in the middle, and gently bent upwards, till they are fixed at the ends to a large hoop, from four to ſix feet diameter, which forms its mouth: On the inſide it is all lined with a narrow net, made for the purpoſe to retain the fiſh and to let out the water, tightly tied to its ribs and mouth; and it has a long handle reaching its bottom, where the rods croſs one another, and to which, and to the mouth, it is well faſtened with a ſtrong cord. This inſtrument the fiſher, ſtanding on a rock, preſſes down ſideways into the ſea, till the lower part of it reaches the bottom, the mouth being nearly right above; then himſelf, or an aſſiſtant, throwing out the bait in ſmall bits over it, he holds it firm in that poſition till it be all covered with *cuddies*, attracted by the bait, when he raiſes it up gently, and often brings in many hundreds at a time. The ſummer is the beſt ſeaſon for the larger *ſye*, and the moſt common method for fiſhing it then is this: A little before ſunſet ſeveral perſons go out in a boat; two, three, or four of whom ſit in its ſtern, each having a fiſhing-rod or two, furniſhed with fine white or gray lines, and flies made of white feathers, or hair on their hooks, which they hold out as far as they can after the boat, while two more are rowing it forwards; in this manner, till it becomes dark, they continue going backwards and forwards among the fiſh, which always purſuing the fly, and endeavouring to ſwallow it, fix on the hooks in ſuch quick ſucceſſion, as keep the fiſhers often conſtantly buſy in taking them in. Every farm on the coaſt, of which there are 34 in this pariſh, has a boat or two, and ſometimes the far greater number of theſe are out in ſearch the of *ſye* in the ſame evening.

Population,

Population, &c.—About 15 years ago, when the miniſter perſonally took the laſt liſt of them, the number of examinable perſons in this pariſh were 1248, of which 930 were in Portree, and 318 in Raaſay. Since that time the increaſe has been conſiderable: After the exacteſt inquiry, the whole number of ſouls appears to be 1980. There being no pariſh regiſter, the births and deaths cannot be well aſcertained; and as to marriages, they may be reckoned at an average 10 every year. Of perſons above 90 years old, there are 2; between 70 and 90, 22. The number of weavers in the pariſh is four; of weavereſſes, 12. There are 2 blackſmiths, 5 carpenters, 8 tailors, and 3 ſhoe or brog-makers; but the generality of the people make their own brogs. There may be reckoned ſix petty merchants, beſides the innkeeper of Portree, with whom it has been always cuſtomary to keep a large aſſortment of hardwares, grocery goods, and ſundry other things neceſſary for the uſe of the country.

Although in the courſe of the ſeven laſt years, ſeveral veſſels went from Sky to America with emigrants, very few left this pariſh. The ſubdiviſion of lands, (a method generally prevailing), at the ſame time that it makes the people poorer, on account of their little progreſs in agricultural improvements, evidently helps to increaſe the population; and the preſervation of many lives is owing to the practice of inoculating that now univerſally prevails.

Agriculture.—Portree, like the far greateſt part of this iſland, is much leſs adapted by nature for agriculture than for paſture, and ſeldom, unleſs in very good years, ſupplies itſelf with a ſufficiency of proviſions. Yet, though the ſoil is not very fertile or rich, it might with proper management be made to produce more plentiful crops. But the general run of farmers are ſo prejudiced in favour of old cuſtoms,

and

and indeed not much inclined to induſtry, that they will not eaſily be prevailed on to change them for the better; eſpecially if the alteration or amendment propoſed be attended with expence. Therefore, with reſpect to improvements in agriculture, they are ſtill much in the ſame ſtate as they were 20 or 30 years ago. Ploughs, on a new and improved model, that in compariſon to the advantages derived from them, might be had at a moderate expence, have lately been introduced into ſeveral diſtricts around, where their good effects are manifeſt, in improving the crops and diminiſhing the labour of man and beaſt; but the Laird of Raaſay only, and one other gentleman in this pariſh, have yet uſed them. The *caſcroim*, a crooked kind of ſpade, which being already well known, requires no deſcription here, is almoſt the only inſtrument for labouring the ground uſed among the ordinary claſs of tenants. Where the ſoil is very wet, or the ground rugged and ſteep, no agricultural tool can be uſed with greater propriety and advantage than the *caſcroim*; but, notwithſtanding, it employs, for the greateſt part of the ſpring, at leaſt 2-5ths more labourers than would be neceſſary, if ploughs were uſed where the nature of the ground would admit. Let it be hoped then, that this tireſome inſtrument of vaſt unneceſſary toil and labour, will be ſoon laid aſide, except in thoſe places where the plough can be of no ſervice. Many hands would thereby be gained for improvements, and other uſeful employments, to promote the public welfare, and the ſtate of agriculture would be greatly meliorated. The moſt effectual way for obtaining this deſirable end, it is ſuppoſed, would be to diſtribute the farms capable of being ploughed, into more equal and larger portions than at preſent; for by this means, the mode now in practice of dividing lands into ſmall lots, in different proportions, would be ſtopt; and every farmer, having always the ſame field to manage, would naturally be more careful and

induſtrious to cultivate it to the beſt advantage. In few or no places is the tillage continued above three years in one and the ſame place; and to produce a tolerable good crop the ground muſt be manured ſome one of theſe years; which is done the firſt, ſecond, or third, according to the nature of the ſoil; before it is again tilled it lies fallow 3 or 4 years, and ſometimes longer. The principal manure uſed is the dung of houſed cattle, mixed with ſtraw, and ſometimes with mud; and ſea-weeds, caſt in great quantities in ſome places, in the winter and ſpring, on the ſhore, and which, of a certain kind called *leathagan*, or tangle, that is very rarely manufactured into kelp, the people themſelves cut during the ſpring tides, and carry to land in their boats. The former is preſerved in large heaps till the time of laying it on the ground arrives, and is chiefly uſed for oats; the latter for barley and potatoes. Sowing time uſually commences about the 20th of March, and harveſt ſeldom before the middle of September. Except a little barley, ſmall oats may be ſaid to be the only crop produced, and potatoes the only ſerviceable root. Of this laſt, there are vaſt quantities grown annually, which, with herring and other fiſh, are the chief food of the bulk of the inhabitants for more than half the year.

Prices, Wages, &c.—Here, and in every other part of the country, the prices of proviſions were far lower about 30 and 40 years ago than at preſent. The old people ſay, that in their time the boll of meal ſold for 6 merks Scots; the double ſtone of butter and cheeſe, tron weight, for 6 s. 6 d. and other neceſſaries in proportion. But theſe matters have ſince undergone a vaſt change; every article has been increaſing in value, and the difference of prices is now ſenſibly felt. Except in the pariſh of Kilmuir, and the neareſt part to it of Snizort, little or no meal, the produce

of the country, is at preſent any where ſold; and there the common price in ſpring is 1 s. *per* peck. Some ſell their butter and cheeſe at 17 s. the double ſtone, and none under 14 s. Cattle that formerly fetched only from L. 1, 10 s. to L. 2, 10 s. have ſince ſold for from L. 3 to L. 4, 10 s. the price of ſheep and weathers now varies from 4 s. to 6 s. and of horſes from L. 2, 10 s. to 6 guineas. This difference of prices may be accounted for from the increaſe of population, and introduction of paper currency into the country; the latter of which, occaſioning the circulation of money in greater plenty, helped to diminiſh its value.

Some ſervants ſhoes juſt now coſt their maſters nearly as much as their wages 20 or 30 years ago amounted to. The common wages for men-ſervants is from L. 2, 10 s. to L. 3, 10 s. and of overſeers from L. 3 to 5 guineas, beſides their ſhoes and maintenance, and ſometimes the graſs of a cow, and tillage of a little lands; when they have graſs, or any tillage, their other wages is ſomething leſs. A woman-ſervant gets from 12 s. to 20 s. with ſhoes; houſekeepers more; but this ſtatement regards only the gentlemen tackſmen, of whom there are but five in the pariſh. The other tenants generally get theirs at an eaſier rate, the reaſon of which is, perhaps, that they eat at the ſame table with themſelves, and ſeldom work but when their maſters partake of the labour. The increaſe in ſervants wages is in a great meaſure owing to many of the young people, particularly the men, going out the beginning of every year to the low countries for work, from which they do not begin to return till the latter end of October; alſo, ſince the manufacturing of kelp became an object of importance, great numbers prefer it, though troubleſome, to any other work, becauſe in it they can earn from 1 s. 6 d. to 3 s. *per* week, according to their labour. In other inſtances labourers are ſeldom hired for the week or day; ſome

ſome farmers, indeed, have cottars, the half of whoſe weekly work they have, and ſometimes more or leſs, for a little graſs, and what ground they can labour the reſt of their time. The quantity of kelp made annually in the pariſh is little more than 35 tons; for the three laſt years the value of kelp was very low, few getting L. 4, 10 s. and many not above L. 3; this year, however, it promiſes much better.

Church, Poor, School, &c.—The Proteſtant religion, according to the eſtabliſhed form of the Church of Scotland, is the only religion profeſſed. There are four places of worſhip, but only one church, which was built a few years after the erection of the pariſh in the year 1726; it is ſlated, but rather ſmall, and indifferently finiſhed within. The heritors are two, Lord Macdonald, and Mr Macleod of Raaſay, the latter of whom generally reſides in the pariſh. The ſtipend is not quite 1000 merks Scots, and the glebe may be worth L. 6 a-year. There is no manſe. The Crown is patron. Mr Hugh Macdonald, the preſent incumbent's predeceſſor, was firſt miniſter of the pariſh. Mr John Nicolſon, the preſent miniſter, is a bachelor, in the 88th year of his age, and 39th of his miniſtry; a man of primitive manners and exemplary life; ſincere, benevolent, and charitable, of untainted rectitude and uprightneſs, and of ſuch indefatigable perſeverance in the diſcharge of his paſtoral office, that being appointed to preach in Kirktown in Raaſay once every month, and once a quarter in another part of that iſland, of no eaſy acceſs, he has not been abſent above four times on the ordinary days, during the whole courſe of his miniſtry, till the beginning of ſpring laſt, when he got a fall that diſlocated his ſhoulder, and confined him to the houſe during the reſt of the ſeaſon. Till that unfortunate accident he never was troubled with any ſort

of

of indiſpoſition, and what is rather ſingular, never travelled on horſe-back for one mile in all his life. As may be ſuppoſed, he is now extremely weak, and can ſcarcely walk to the next place of worſhip; an aſſiſtant, therefore, or miſſionary, between Raaſay and the farther end of the pariſh, is much required, and greatly wiſhed for by the people. Before Mr Nicolſon's time there was no permanent poor's fund; now there is L. 140. For many years after his ſettlement, the poor were leſs numerous, and the Sunday collections greater than at preſent; theſe circumſtances enabled the kirk-ſeſſion to purſue with ſucceſs a plan formed by the miniſter, of laying aſide annually on intereſt the fines of delinquents, and as much of the Sunday contributions as poſſibly could be ſpared, for the purpoſe of making up a ſtanding fund. By that prudent œconomy they ſaved the above mentioned ſum; the intereſt of which, with fines and Sunday contributions, make the preſent annual proviſion for the relief of the more indigent poor in this part of the pariſh. In Raaſay they have a L. 20 legacy, the amount of which, the intereſt, and the Sunday collections in the iſland, and fines, if any, is diſtributed every year among their own poor. The number of poor on the liſt in Raaſay is 15; in this part of the pariſh 46. Beſides theſe, there are ſeveral more very needy, though not on the liſt. Many of the poor have ſome friend or relation, with whom they, for the moſt part, live, and by whoſe help they are ſupported the greateſt part of the year.

About 40 years ago, the Committee for managing the Royal Bounty for the improvement of the Highlands and Iſlands, granted L. 25 *per annum* to a ſchoolmaſter and catechiſt in this barony, who, by their terms, before his admiſſion to the ſchool, was to be examined at Edinburgh by the Committee, and found knowing in matters that regard religion, and ſufficiently qualified to teach Greek, Latin, arithmeti c,

arithmetic, writing, and reading. Not long afterwards, the late Sir James Macdonald, who died at Rome in 1766, much eſteemed and lamented, obſerving the central ſituation of Portree, fixed on it for the ſeat of the ſchool, and ordered a large and commodious ſchool houſe to be built. But of the L. 25 granted by the Committee, five were withdrawn ſeveral years ago, to make up a ſalary for a miſſionary appointed on the eaſt ſide of Kilmuir; which miſſion the funds of the Committee were not able to continue long, and therefore there now is none, but needed. To the ſchool of Portree numbers come from all parts of the country. It is generally very full every winter and ſpring; and the number of ſcholars in ſummer is ſeldom leſs than 30. It has often, from time to time, ſent many ſtudents to the Univerſity, who afterwards, in different capacities ſerved, and ſtill ſerve their country, with honour and credit. At preſent, there are three young men ready for College.

Advantages, &c.—Were it turned to the uſe that nature itſelf points out, Portree enjoys one great advantage, which few or no places can boaſt of, and that is its noble and excellent port, called from its excellence *Oen Acerſaid*, or the Harbour. An inlet of the ſea, acroſs whoſe mouth lies Raaſay, ſpreading itſelf into an oblong, well ſheltered on all ſides from every wind, forms a haven ſafe and commodious as can be conceived. On the weſt ſide of this oblong is a ſteep beech, nearly of a ſemicircular form, on whoſe ſides riſe two high rocks, and all together form a beautiful baſon of water, on which the moſt violent ſtorms are never ſeen to raiſe a wave. Along the beech, cloſe by the edge of the ſea, between the two forementioned rocks, lies a green field, about 60 feet broad; and right up from that field is a low and eaſy aſcent, from the top of which a large plain opens to the view. Beyond this plain, towards the

the N. W. commences a wide-extended moſs, conſiſting at leaſt of 1200 ſquare acres, in many places 12 feet deep, and affording excellent peat. On all the hills around, too, is plenty of good peats, and the beſt paſture; the beſt arable, and beſt improveable lands in the pariſh lie round about the harbour. Thus far then Portree appears to be the moſt eligible ſituation for founding a village that can be deviſed; and farther, in other requiſites and conveniencies, it is nothing behind. Situated in the very centre of Sky, and it may be ſaid of all this part of the Highlands and Iſlands, none of the lochs or bays on theſe coaſts moſt famous for the herring-fiſhing, are far from it, and many are very near. In the ſounds without are good banks for the ling and cod fiſhing, and all the ſurrounding ſeas abound in various ſorts of other fiſh. On the beech, becauſe of its ſteepneſs, and the great abundance of good ſtone in the rocks above, a breaſt work or quay might be built at a comparatively ſmall expence. On the other ſide of the harbour are very promiſing appearances of coals; and a little beyond, near its mouth, as likewiſe in the iſland of Raaſay, are inexhauſtible quarries of different ſorts of fine free-ſtone *; and hard by, at Sconcer, is abundance of limeſtone. Quite at hand are two ſmall rivers that never dry up, and ſeveral fountains of good and wholeſome water; ſo that in all points of view Portree has every advantage and conveniency requiſite for the building of a village; and therefore there can be no doubt, but were it once begun, and ſuitable encouragements given, it would ſoon be in a very flouriſhing condition. Indeed, ſuch is its inviting ſituation that there are, at preſent, no leſs than 30 families about the place without lands; and who, for the moſt part, have no

2 other

* It is from Raaſay that the neighbouring countries are ſupplied with millſtones.

other means of ſubſiſtence but by fiſhing, ferrying to Loch-Carron, Ciſhorn Strath, and other places, going on errands and expreſſes, and other occaſional employments. There is a very good harbour in Ronay, but no veſſels put in there, unleſs forced by the weather or other accidents. The conveniency of the ſchool is a great advantage; and it is alſo a conſiderable advantage, that from Sconcer to Acerſaid, and thence down to Snizort, is the beſt piece of made road in all Sky. Here, too, the latter end of every May and July, is held a well known fair, to which all Sky, except the diſtricts of Strath, Heat, ſome from Uiſt and Harriſh, bring their cattle. The fair commonly continues from Wedneſday till the following Saturday; and while, during that time, the cattle of others, ſome of them after a long driving through moors and bad roads, are ſtanding on the moor, theſe in the neighbourhood of Portree are eaſily ſent to graſs every night, and brought back again next morning, by which means they look much fuller and better. But with reſpect to the farms immediately near the market-place, this manifeſt advantage is perhaps often more than balanced by the damage which their graſs, and ſometimes their corn ſuffers. The numbers that, on theſe occaſions, flock from all parts to Portree, are immenſe; and though there is a large, commodious, and well kept inn at Acerſaid, many, even of the beſt, are often put to their ſhifts for lodgings. Five miles ſouth from Acerſaid, at the meeting of the three principal lines of road in Sky, is the public houſe and poſt-office of Sconcer, from which, by means of two runners, and the poſt from Inverneſs to Dunvegan, all the letters of Strath, Heat, Troterniſh, and Mingniſh are diſtributed.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The language generally ſpoke is the Gaelic, but much corrupted with a mixture of Engliſh

Engliſh words, which the common people, ambitious to be thought to underſtand ſomething of that language, are fond of uſing on every occaſion. Moſt names of places are from the Daniſh, ſome from the Gaelic, of which inſtances have been already given; and further, *Aird-du*, or Black Promontory, from *du*, black, and *aird*, a promontory; *Bail-mainiſh*, or Middle Town, from *bail*, a town, and *mainiſh*, middling, or in the middle. Of thoſe of Daniſh origin, *Maaniſh*, and *Raaſay*; the former from *Niſh* or *Neſs*, which plainly from the ſituation of thoſe places whoſe names have that termination, ſignifies a point or cape; the latter from *Ai* or *Ay*, an iſland. The firſt parts of the names, the ſignification of which is not now well underſtood, are only particles or adjectives, expreſſive of ſome particular circumſtance, property, or quality of the places. The inhabitants are as humanely and generouſly diſpoſed as any of their neighbours. The gentlemen tackſmen, or firſt claſs of farmers in Sky, do in general enjoy the benefits of a liberal and polite education, and theſe ineſtimable advantages they are willing to beſtow on their children. The common people are naturally endowed with a ſtrength of mind and ſprightlineſs of diſpoſition that greatly diſtinguiſh them from others of the ſame rank and condition. Their inquiſitive turn, and fondneſs for news, frequently induce them to addreſs all they ſee for information; and their queſtions, and ſhrewd remarks, are often very ſurpriſing. This curioſity is no where more conſpicuous than in Portree, and perhaps there are few places that afford more frequent opportunities of gratifying it. A ſort of coarſe woollen cloth called *cloa*, or *caddoes*, the manufacture of their wives, made into ſhort jackets and trouſers, is the common dreſs of the men. The philibeg is rarely wore, except in ſummer and on Sundays, on which days, and ſome other occations, thoſe in better circumſtances, appear in tartans, a bonnet, and ſhort hoſe,

and

and ſome in a hat, ſhort coat, waiſtcoat, and breeches of Scotch or Engliſh manufacture. The women are in general very cleanly, and ſo exceſſively fond of dreſs, that many maid-ſervants are often known to lay out their whole wages that way. The men in general are middle ſized; there are at preſent in this pariſh 5 men about 6 feet high, and none exceed that height. The height of the women is from 5 feet 2 inches to 5 feet 6½; they are in general handſome and well complexioned. Some ſpirited young men are fond of the military profeſſion: but here, as likewiſe in the other parts of the country, the generality ſeem to have loſt that martial diſpoſition, which was ſo characteriſtic of their fathers. When any is enliſted for the ſervice, his relations are, for ſome time, inconſolable; and, in particular, the mothers, ſiſters, and wives, would rather have their reſpective relatives to paſs the moſt miſerable and wretched life with themſelves at home, than ſee them go into the army. If go they will, it would not give them near the concern were it along with their chief, his connections or dependents, with whom they are acquainted; and who, they are impreſſed with the idea, have a greater right to them, and would be more careful and tender of them. However, the different recruiting parties through the country this year have been pretty ſucceſsful. The men of Raaſay are excellent fiſhers and excellent ſeamen; to their inſular ſituation, perhaps, abounding in a variety of fiſh, this dexterity may in a great meaſure be attributed; they are more expert in fiſhing, and appear to be fonder of a ſeafaring life than moſt of their neighbours. During the ſpring, and greateſt part of ſummer, numbers of them are employed in the ling and cod fiſhing, and then many of them engage on board the herring buſſes, where they commonly remain till the fiſhing ſeaſon is over, when they return home with their earnings,

well clad, and more experienced mariners. Were the encouragements to fiſhing greater, which might be effected by the removal of thoſe difficulties and obſtacles, which at preſent ſtand in the way of that uſeful and beneficial branch of buſineſs, in conſequence of the rigour of the ſalt laws, much good and great profit would thereby accrue not only to this pariſh, but to the whole country around*; nor need it be obſerved, that were a village founded at Portree, it would be attended with many important benefits; the foregoing indulgence would eſtabliſh it at once, if a plenary indulgence could not be granted.

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* It would inſure to the inhabitants a certain proviſion to their families for the year, and prevent a vaſt conſumption of meal imported into the country, if a report was annually given in of the number of the ſmall claſs of tenants, to whom 2 barrels of ſalt might be diſtributed upon oath, for the purpoſe of curing the relative quantity of herrings to be eat with their potatoes; even one barrel would totally change the face of affairs, where ſubſiſtence is ſo ſcanty, and population ſo overbearing. This trifling indulgence would contribute to the neceſſities of many thouſands. A ſworn rental, containing each name, might be annually produced at a proper ſeaſon; it would be impoſſible that ſalt diſtributed in ſuch ſmall proportions within the reſpective diſtricts, could ever be miſuſed, or employed ſo beneficially to the poſſeſſor as in ſecuring his ſubſiſtence; an experiment might be made for one or more years, and proſecuted or condemned according to the ſalt-officer's report.

NUMBER VIII.

PARISH OF ASSINT,

(COUNTY OF SUTHERLAND, SYNOD OF SUTHERLAND AND CAITHNESS, PRESBYTERY OF DORNOCH.)

By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM MACKENZIE, *Miniſter* *.

Origin of the Name, and general Deſcription, &c.

ASSINT is a Gaelic compound †, deſcriptive of the ſuperficies of the whole pariſh; its wide extent conſiſting of lofty mountains, high hills, ſtupenduous rocks, threatening

* The writer of this paper informs once for all, that he is not ſuch an adept in the Gaelic language, as to uſe Iriſh orthography; therefore, when Gaelic words muſt neceſſarily be mentioned, that mode is all along adopted, wherein there are few, if any, quieſcent letters. See Mr Macpherſon's learned diſſertation, prefixed to the poem of Temora.

† As *Agus Int*, contracted *As-Sint*, *i. e.* in plain Engliſh, "In and out," which evidently refers to both convex and concave ſurfaces, cauſed by lofty mountains, &c. In oppoſition to the etymology preſently given, there is a vague tradition bandied, which ſtates, "That two brothers,

"Unt

threatening precipices, and numberleſs objects of the like kind, but by far of much leſs magnitude. Along the ſides, and ſtretched out from the baſe of theſe grand appearances, are extenſive tracts of heath and moſs. Such parts of theſe tracts as are in ſome degree elevated, afford ſafe paſturing ground for yell cattle. Such as are low, overgrown with ſoft and deep moſs, quagmires here and there interſperſed, prove often fatal to quadrupeds of every kind; beneath all theſe mountains, tracts of heath and deep moſs, are narrow glens, vallies, and ſmall plains, beautified with little natural mounts, ridges, and hollows; all theſe are wholly green, affording plentiful paſture, during ſummer and harveſt, for milk cows, ſome goat, and ſheep. By the cloſe of harveſt, or beginning of November, cattle are ſent to winterings*, where they continue till the beginning of February or thereby, at which time they are taken thence, houſed, and fed; the milk cows, in preference to all, are paſtured through the day, if poſſible, in the moors, or, if prevented by one or more bad days, are ſupported ſparingly within doors. As to the lower part of this pariſh, called in Gaelic *Fa-Un-Aſſint*, the ſurface is much the ſame; it has its hills, &c. but

" Unt and Aſ-Unt, (*i. e.* freely tranſlated), *the man of peace*, and *the* " *man of diſcord*; that they, in days of old, fought for the maſtery of " Aſſint; that Unt was ſlain, of conſequence the conqueror, Aſ-Unt, gave "his name to the pariſh." And further, " That imaginary ſpots, where " the ſcene took place, was at Ry-an-Unt, a ſmall plain on the farm of " Little Aſſint, preſently poſſeſſed by Lieutenant John Scobie." But the writer of this narrative fully convinced that Gaelic original names are deſcriptive of what is moſt ſtriking, or remarkably obſervable, has ventured what is ſet forth, as above, rather than mere fable.

* Certain grazings preſerved during the whole three harveſt months, to which the cattle are ſent, and continue there for the winter quarter without being houſed.

but perfectly diminutive when compared with thoſe of the height of Aſſint. The numerous inhabitants here on their ſmall particular diviſion of a town or farm, practiſe much the ſame method with thoſe on the height in rearing cattle, which is the principal ſtaple of the whole pariſh, and the only one of the height of Aſſint. But the inhabitants of Fan-Aſſint, or Lower Aſſint, have the additional advantage of fiſhing in the ſurrounding offing, bays, ſeas, and ocean, when they pleaſe, and when the weather will permit them. But of theſe bays, *&c.* in their proper place.

The particular tract of the pariſh called Me-in-Aſſint, *i. e.* the middle of Aſſint, is a perfect wild, covered with heath, moſs, heathery hills, and rocks of ſmall ſize, and freſh water lochs, which are numerous. This tract conſiſts of the outſkirts of all the farms on the whole coaſt of the pariſh, and is uſed moſtly in common, and as temporary winterings, but not ſafe.

Situation.—This pariſh is ſituated on the W. N. W. coaſt of Scotland, within the county of Sutherland, the preſbytery of Dornoch, Synod of Sutherland and Caithneſs. The ſynodical annual meeting is held alternately at Dornoch and Thurſo; the latter a town in the county of Caithneſs; the former, the only Royal Burgh in that of Sutherland. The diſtance betwixt Thurſo and Dornoch is 43 computed miles; thence to Aſſint 30 miles like meaſure, at leaſt. Three rivers, and ſeveral conſiderable rivulets, interſect the road betwixt Aſſint and Dornoch; therefore, when the weather turns out rainy, and continues for but 24 hours, or thereby, the very rivulets, and eſpecially the rivers, are ſo many tremendous torrents, not to be forded, and when raſhly attempted, the conſequence ſeldom fails to prove fatal; along theſe 30 miles, there is not one bridge, nor but one or two ſmall boats, of the ſhape or figure of ſalmon

cobles,

cobles, in which a ſtranger would think himſelf not ſafe, far leſs would he think of having his horſe wafted in them, though both are often done by the adventurous natives. The road from Aſſint to Dornoch, making only allowance for the preceding hazardous inconveniencies, is in a tolerable degree opened up, excepting five miles in Finevin, the property of the late active and gallant Sir John Roſs of Balnagown, whom the narrator has often heard ſay, that he would ſoon drive his carriage to Kan-loch-elſh, which could be eaſily effected, there being no bog nor mire in the tract of theſe few miles, only ſtones of ſuch bulk as might be taken up by any ordinary man, and removed to a diſtance; the bottom is gravel. Sir Charles Roſs, ſon and ſucceſſor to Sir John, would have only to ſay, "Let theſe "five miles be opened for a road;" and it would readily be done.

Boundaries.—Aſſint, ſituated as above, and lying on the W. N. W. coaſt of Scotland, is thus bounded; on the N. it is divided from the pariſh of Edrachiliſh, by a great arm of the ſea, called Kilis *, of conſiderable breadth, as it enters from the ocean, probably more than two, if not three leagues; it indents, running betwixt both pariſhes with little variation, in a direction from W. to E. If we reckon from the point, or land-end of Rowſtore of Aſſint, which projects into the ocean conſiderably more than the oppoſite northern coaſt of Edrachiliſh, the Kilis may be found in length † ſix leagues at leaſt, as it terminates at the baſes

* Kilis, a Gaelic noun, ſignifying the ſeparation of one place from another by ſea or water.

† The narrator could not get the peruſal of the general map of Aſſint, though he wrote the factor in 1792. It was locked up where there was no acceſs to it; therefore all calculations or reckonings condeſcended on are but the narrator's beſt conjectures.

baſes of Edrachiliſh and Aſſint, lofty mountains. At one league's diſtance from the inland end of the Kilis, there is a particular part of it, called Kilis-cu-ig *, acroſs which a ſtone may be ſlung; there the natives ſwim their hardy breed of cattle, from either ſide to the other, as often as their buſineſs requires. Advancing eaſtward a very ſhort diſtance from Kilis-cu-ig, the Kilis expands to a conſiderable extent, and at length terminates in two lochs, *viz.* Loch-glen-du of Edrachiliſh and Lockunapool of this pariſh. The herring-buſſes repair yearly to theſe, and the other lochs of the Kilis, and ſeldom have cauſe to repent, as they fall in with fiſh, are well ſheltered on one or other ſide of the Kilis, and have good anchoring ground.

Lochunapool above mentioned, ends at Glen-cul of Edrachiliſh, the only farm in this quarter of the county belonging to the Honourable family of Reay, and in contact with Aſſint. The boundary by land, through hills, moors, *&c.* is ſomewhat differently repreſented. The poſſeſſors of Glencul ſay, that their march with this pariſh runs along the long-extended ridge of Bin-an-nu-i; on the other part, the tenants of Unapool and others in this pariſh aſſert, that the march lies at a ſhort diſtance without the Ballach (*i. e.* the ſlap or paſs) of that hill, whence it directs its courſe by Loch-poul-aulay †; from that lake, in an eaſt direction, by Loch-an-tlugid ‡ to Cloich-an-tnive ||, where the march of Glencul-Edruchiliſh with this pariſh ceaſes. The inconſiderable tract of moor above referred to, very ſeldom or never is a cauſe of difference among the people; they live

* *i. e.* The Narrow Kyle.

† A loch where one of the name of Aulay periſhed.

‡ Means a capacious loch; receives much water from the north ſide of Bin-an-nu-i.

|| A huge ſtone, not far from winding craiggy rocks.

live in peace, and exchange mutual good offices; their yell cattle graze in common only for about three months in the year, on thoſe very high and bleak ſummits. Quitting marches with Edrachiliſh as above, this pariſh, at the very ſame Cloich-an-tnive, begins to bound with the moſt remote Highland grazings *, now of the pariſh of Creech, and ſince 1732 a property of the Balnagown family. From Cloich-an-tnive the preſent runs thus: By the heights of Lead-ri-voch; by Tu-on; by Maul-an-fear-loch; the heights of Lead-na-bea-kach, until you arrive at the Ca (*i. e.* the ſlap or paſs) of that hill; the paſs lies betwixt Be-a-kich and Gone-vaul-hill, the latter ſtill belongs to this pariſh; the march is continued by a burn, which deſcends from the paſs betwixt theſe two very high hills laſt mentioned; at the diſtance of a mile from its ſource, it forms a loch called Du-loch-more †, the ſtream iſſuing from it at the diſtance of about half a mile, falls along a precipice; here the march forms a curve to Fowran-ballach-tra-li-gal ‡; this ſpring is ſituated on the verge of the ſame precipice, ſouthward of the above ſtream; its pure rivulet glides along a ſimilar courſe, both to Stra-an-an, now as

* Theſe grazings are, Kor-a-vad-ag-beg, Kor-a-vad-ag-more, Beakach-hill and Stra-an-an. Conteſts had ariſen betwixt the herds of the Laird of Aſſint and thoſe of Balnagown. The Sheriff-depute of the Right Honourable the Earl of Sutherland, who then, as of old, held heritable juriſdiction of the whole county, neceſſarily interfered; and thinking, that by the ſituation of theſe places, they ſhould be attached to Balnagown's neighbouring property, they were accordingly made over, by which Aſſint loſt what of old was reckoned grazing belonging to it.

† The Big-black-loch.

‡ *i. e.* A ſpring or well at the outer entry, from Aſſint, of Ballach-tra-li-gal.

as already obſerved, the property of Balnagown. From the above ſpring or well, the march runs to the hill of Breb-ag-tar-ſkin *; from thence by the ridges of a great range of hills, until you arrive at Ballach Ki-nich †, oppoſite to which lies Kaun-loch-alſh, of old appertaining to Balnagown. For the ſake of perſpicuity it is to be remembered, that the great track of ſhore-moor, *&c.* from the point of Row-ſtore to the aforementioned Cana-beakach fronts the north; from ſaid Ca, or paſs, to Ballach Ki-nich, looks to the eaſt; thence, in a ſtraight line by the ſouth-eaſt ſide of Lochan-ſkerich ‡, to the ſpring, from which the burn of Auldan-na-kal-gach || runs, then along its channel until it enters Loch-bolan; from the ſouth end of which, or, as others ſay, from that part of its weſtern ſide directly oppoſite to Auldan-na-kal-gach, the march holds a ſtraight courſe to § Fe-na-hard-elig; from the weſt ſide of Loch-borlan this pariſh marches with that of Kincardine; from Te-nahard-elig ** to the top of Maul-na-nim-rachin: thence to Cloich-glas-maul-a-chirn ††, at which place the

* Tar-ſkin ſignifies, that Breb-ag hill lies acroſs the range of hills to the ſouth of it.

† Means the ſlap or paſs of Kenneth.

‡ A little loch, having in it, or adjacent to it, ſmall ſharp-pointed rocks.

|| Means the burn of deceit or hypocriſy.

§ A track of ſoft boggy moor, to which, in times of old, the natives gathered deer, and when entangled, they killed them.

** Signifies a little hill having ſeveral tracks of plain moor, reſembling fields, adjacent to it.

†† Means a hill, having a large gray ſtone on top of it. Kinin is a Gaelic word, expreſſing the fruit of the redin tree, which of old grew on this maul or hill. There is a burn, running from the ſouth ſide of this hill;

the Balnagown Highlands, and alſo the pariſh of Kincardin, ceaſe to march with this pariſh; and there alſo Aſſint begins to run marches with the barony of Coigach, pariſh of Lochbroom, in this manner: From ſaid Cloich-glas-maul-a-kirn, to the higheſt eminence of Lead-na-luib-a-croi*. But we muſt not paſs on without obſerving, that from Ballach Ke-nich, eſpecially from the ſource of Auldan-na-kal-gach, the march, with little variation, holds thence a courſe from S. E. by S.W. to the above Lead-na-luib-a-croi; from this place the march ſets off in a weſt direction to the higheſt part of Maul-an-our †; from that ſummit by the ſouth ſide of Maul-a-vourich ‡, in the ſame direction to the top of the hill, called Ki-uch ||; thence all along as ridges of hills and water divide, by the higheſt part of Maul-cor-a-loch-an, in a ſtraight line to Gla ik-na-crev-ſhellich §, which is at ſome conſiderable diſtance to the ſouth of the farm of Knochan, the higheſt ſituation in all this pariſh. At the above Gla-ik-na-crev-ſhellich, a ſpring originates; at a

hill; it runs five or ſix miles before it enters Skell-river, the grazings which lie betwixt it and the march, deſcribed from Ballach Ki-nich to Cloich-glas-maul-a-chirn, were taken away by the Thane of Roſs from Macleod Laird of Aſſint, in time of the conflicts of the clans. It is reported by tradition, that one of the Thane's followers, who had a little earth from Balnagown's property in his ſhoes, declared ſolemnly, as he ſtood with the inqueſt at Auldan-na-kal-gach, that he was then ſtanding on the Thane's undoubted property; then it was that the burn got the name of Auldan-na-kal-gach.

* Means a gravelly, hard plain.

† A hillock having bad heath.

‡ A hill frequented by deer in rutting ſeaſon.

|| A paſs.

§ A ſlap in a rock where a wild willow tree grew.

a certain diſtance from its ſource it falls into Auld-a-chrokan; this burn, after ſeveral windings, diſgorges itſelf into a great lake called Loch-me-addy; from the ſpring of Glaik-na-crev-ſhellich to this laſt loch, the courſe of the march is from S. to N. From Loch-me-addy the march aſſumes a direction from E. to W. in this manner: A great body of water iſſues from that loch; it forms a channel of no great length; it is contracted to the breadth of an ordinary river, and reſigns at laſt its great ſtream to another equally large lake called Fane-loch; betwixt theſe two great lochs there is in the channel above mentioned one ford, it is called U-y-farn *; it is dangerous, being only incoherent ſtone and ſand heaped together, by ſtrong winds which prevail here the go of harveſt, more or leſs through winter, and eſpecially beginning of ſpring; ſome perſons, though but ſeldom, are drowned at U-y-farn. At the diſtance of 3 miles, towards the ſhore, a grand caſcade commands attention. It goes by the name of The Caſcade of Inverkirkag River. The collection of the numberleſs ſprings, burns, and lochs from Ballach Kenich, all along the march, to Knochan of Aſſint, as above mentioned, beſides what is ſuperadded from lofty mountains † on both ſides the watery march, at this very place all concentring to the Caſcade, force their way over a very great, high, and craggy precipice. The fall exhibits a ſcene that ſtrikes the beholder with ſurpriſe; immediately after the fall an eaſy declining channel forms; its length to the ſea is two miles.

At

* A ford, near to which alder trees grow.

† Theſe are Su il-vine, (which means the Mountain of the Eye), in ſea charts called, Sugar Loaf, as being of a conical figure, and ſeen of that ſhape by mariners at a great diſtance; it is in this pariſh. The other great mountain is Cin il-more of Coigach; both are oppoſite on each ſide of the march.

At about the middle part there is a ſtem or cruive, having two cheſts, acroſs to catch ſalmon, and to prevent their getting up to a great pond below the fall, whence they cannot be taken by reaſon of great ſtones, roots of trees, and other obſtacles carried yearly there in time of great ſpeats; no fiſh was ever known to have ſurmounted the Caſcade. This river at laſt diſembogues itſelf into the ocean, at a very ſhort diſtance ſouth of Inverkirkag farm houſe. There, at certain times of every tide during the fiſhing-ſeaſon, fiſhers ply with a yoal, (a little boat), oars, and nets, to catch ſalmon. The quantity taken throughout the ſeaſon is ſaid not to exceed one and a half laſt, though in a favourable year, the fiſhing may turn out to a few barrels more; however, the ſalmon, in regard of quality and reliſh, are allowed not to yield to any in Great Britain, being ſpawned in a river whoſe many ſprings are the pureſt ſources, and alſo being catched inſtantly as they come from the ocean.

Leaving Coigach barony (which has no right to fiſh ſalmon here) ſouth of Inverkirkag river, to which river the preſent marches of this pariſh, with thoſe of Edrachiliſh, Creech, Kincardine, and Lochbroom pariſhes, have been all along particularly pointed out, the narrator now proceeds to deſcribe the coaſt of this pariſh from the river of Kirk-ag to the point or land-end of Row-ſtore, from which place he began to ſhow the circuitous march of it.

The length of this part of the coaſt, if the uneven, winding, and in ſome places, rocky foot road from farm to farm * be followed, may be found at leaſt to meaſure 15 miles. The courſe

* The farms on this track of coaſt, and in its neighbourhood, are, Inverkirkag, Baddy-na-ban, Knock-nan-nach, Culag, Filin-wintering, Drumſwordland, and Duchlaſh. Theſe, as ſituated betwixt Kirk-ag and Inver rivers, are called Ed-ra-iſk farms. They lie S. S. E. of the river of Inver.

courſe from Kirk-ag river to the point of Row-ſtore, runs from S. S. E. to N. N. W. All this coaſt is of importance, as the ſea abounds with every ſpecies of fiſh, cod, ling, *&c.* there are likewiſe a variety of ſhell fiſh, *viz.* oyſter, lobſter, *&c.* But the annual reſort of herring to this and neighbouring coaſts, S. and N. of the pariſh, (now for ſeveral years paſt), is what affords great advantage, both in reſpect of living and profit to thoſe reſiding there, far ſuperior to all the reſources which the inhabitants reſiding on the heights of it can have. By the ſide of Loch-Inver is the fiſhing ſtation of Culag, built at the expence of L. 2000 Sterling, by John-Joſeph Bacon, Eſq; of the Iſle of Man, and one Mr Donald Roſs partner, for a certain ſhare of that ſum. Of late years the leaſe and buildings have been all transferred to other adventurers. There is a ſmall cruive on the little river of Culag, where perhaps a barrel of ſalmon may be catched throughout the ſeaſon; its contiguity to the ſalmon-fiſhing of Inver river can be the only reaſon for the expence of its having a cruive and ſmall cheſt acroſs.

At Inver river, which has alſo a cruive and two cheſts, there may be cured throughout the ſeaſon two laſts of ſalmon; a favourable year may produce more, but very ſeldom, if ever, does it complete three laſts. Inver river, which has its numerous ſources *, *&c.* from every direction, eſpecially from Goin-vaul-hill, and alſo from Loch-Ah, near Ledbeg farm, on the height of this pariſh, it diſgorges itſelf into the large and very ſafe harbour of Loch-Inver, where, when the herring-fiſhing offers ſucceſsfully, there may be ſeen occaſionally two, three, or four ſcore, and

* Of theſe, and the farms lying adjacent on the height, the narrator will afterwards take notice, but he muſt keep his courſe in deſcribing the coaſt.

and ſometimes a greater number of ſhips *. But, to proceed, along a dangerous wooden bridge to the oppoſite ſide of Inver river, in our way to Row-ſtore-point, ſeveral farms † and grazings offer to view, interſperſed with numberleſs rocks, ſtones, and hollows; however, all have the advantage of fiſhing. Every farm has one, two, or more boats, according to the number of inhabitants fit to be employed. After fiſhing, the natives draw up their boats on ſhore, or into ſmall crecks; as after leaving Loch-Inver harbour, there is no ſafe one until (after doubling the point of Row-ſtore) you enter the chops of Kilis ‡; which being effected, a mariner may, as he finds convenient, ſafely anchor at Cu-il-heu-ig, north ſide of Dorny-oldney ‖; or from the point of Store, keeping clear of the iſland Oldney, he may ſafely put in at Poul-an-dun-an §, on the north

* Theſe come from every part of the eaſt and weſt coaſt of Scotland, from Stornaway, nine leagues diſtant from this coaſt, and ſeen from it when the day proves clear and ſerene; a few ſhips come from the iſlands of Orkney and Man. All theſe herring-buſſes, their numerous crews, boats, and great trains of nets, make no leſs pleaſant than grand appearance. In purſuit of herring, the crews, &c. ſet out to fiſh late in the evening, and continue till early next morning. The buſſes ride at anchor. Such is the method practiſed.

† Their names are, Baddy-darroch, Inver, Brackloch, Baddy-grinan-wintering, Torbreck-wintering, Achonalvich, Clacktoll, Store, Balla-chladach, Claſhmore, Achnakarnan and Dure-land, Culkin-ach-na-kar-nan, cloſe by the point of Row-ſtore.

‡ Kilis was deſcribed in general, p. 166; this further deſcription is meant for the more particular information of mariners.

‖ Dorny, *i. e.* a narrow ſpace or channel of ſea, where it flows and ebbs, and where, at full ſea, a veſſel can be towed to either ſide of the harbour.

§ Poul-an-dun-an, called ſo, as there is there a little mount or dune on the north ſide of the iſland, oppoſite to the anchoring ground.

north ſide of that iſland, not far from the Dorney. The great and long track from Oldney to Unapool, (both theſe places included) is called by the general name of Sliſh-a-chiliſh *; there are ſeveral farms on it †, and ſafe harbours alſo. Next to thoſe of Oldney are the following: Loch-Drumbaig, it is ſheltered by a range of rocks and little iſlands (called in Gaelic, *Elan-in-du, i. e.* The Black Iſlands) at a moderate diſtance off ſhore, and almoſt parallel to it. Veſſels anchor betwixt the ſhore and the iſlands.

Loch-Nedd is the ſecond beſt, if not equal to the harbour of Loch-Inver. It is ſafe, and ſheltered from every wind, and in time of the herring-ſeaſon, there may be as great a number of ſhipping here as at Loch-Inver.

Ardvare Loch or Harbour. Its entry is narrow; the bottom craggy. If a veſſel gets in, which ſhe may ſafely effect at high tide, ſhe rides ſafe, and is well ſheltered. This harbour is of conſiderable extent.

Cambus-vic-ker-chir ‡. It is ſafe and well ſheltered, except from N. E. gales. It is ſituated on the coaſt of Ardvare farm, not far from the march of Ry-an-traid-wintering. Advancing ſtill more inland by Kilis, the next harbour is,

Poul-a-gha-ren, which affords great ſafety and ſhelter. It is ſituated in that great boſom of Kilis, directly oppoſite to Auld-a-gha-un, the march betwixt Ry-an-tra-id-winter-

ing,

* *i. e.* The thigh, or ſide of the Kilis.

† The farms are, Claſhneſſy, Oldeny, Culkin-drumbaig, Drumbaig, Nedd, Glen-le-ag, Ardvare, Ry-an-tra-id-wintering, and Unapool, which, as formerly obſerved, co-marches with Glencul Edrachilis pariſh.

‡ A Gaelic compound; Cambus, or Camus, meaning, A wide indenture of the ſea into the land: Vic-ker-chir, Farquhurt's ſon, from whom this harbour took its name, &c.

ing and Unapool. It has the additional ſhelter of Elan-a-gha-un *, belonging to Un-a-pool-farm. Poula-ghaun is in ſight of the entry to Kilis-cu-ig formerly mentioned. At a very ſhort diſtance eaſtward from it is the harbour of Cambus-vic-Huſtan. The common people call it Loch-cam-mus-cu-ſake. It will contain ſafely from 12 to 18 herring-buſſes, and their boats.—Such is the coaſt, and ſuch are the harbours of Aſſint.

It is unneceſſary here to ſay any thing particular of the great expanſion of Kilis eaſtward of the laſt mentioned harbour, nor of the manner it terminates, having been already ſet forth in p. 167, *et ſeq.* of this Statiſtical Account. All this part of the coaſt, from the point of Row-ſtore, along Sliſh-a-chiliſh, to the march of Unapool with Glencuil Edrachiliſh pariſh, is of equal, if not greater value than that track formerly ſpoken of, from Inver-kirk-ag river to ſaid point of Store, for theſe reaſons, that it has more harbours, and at leaſt equal advantage in fiſhing.

Islands *on the Coaſt, and belonging to the Pariſh of* Assint.

Elan-a-gharin.—This iſland belongs to the farm of Unapool, where their calves are ſpeaned, and there occaſionally one cow may be fattened.

Elan-an-du, or Black Iſlands, and adjacent rocks, form and ſhelter the harbour of Loch-Drumbaig. Theſe iſlands are of little value, fit only for ſpeaning a very few lambs or kids. The eagle pays them viſits for a repaſt.

Maul-elan-an.

* Elan-a-gha-un, alſo a compound, Elan ſignifying an Iſland: and Gha-un, meaning a Six-month old of the cow-kind. To this iſland the tenants of Unapool ſend cattle of that age to be ſpeaned.

Maul-elan-an.—Theſe are two iſlands attached to the farm of Culkin-Drumbaig; they are a little nearer the coaſt of this pariſh than that of Edra-chiliſh; they lie in that broad part of Kilis which runs in a direct line betwixt Culkin-Drumbaig and Loch-bad-ca-ul *, a fine harbour cloſe by the manſe of Edra-chiliſh. To theſe iſlands ſometimes old ſheep are ſent to fatten, or lambs to be ſpeaned. They are of no great extent. They are not to be approached but when a fair and calm day offers, by reaſon of the billows and broken ſurges, which violently waſh their bold and rocky ſhore.

Iſland Oldney.—This iſland, the beſt on the whole coaſt, the eaſtern end of it lies ſo near the mainland part of Oldney farm, by reaſon that the breadth of the channel dividing them will not exceed 20 yards; this alſo is the channel formerly mentioned by the Gaelic name of Dorny-elan-aul-da-ney, having a harbour on each ſide of it. The length of it will perhaps meaſure an Engliſh mile; the breadth varies much in many places, and where broadeſt, will probably not exceed a quarter of a mile. Its inſular ſituation makes it valuable, as its paſture and little corn is ſafe from being treſpaſſed on by neighbouring cattle; beſides that it anſwers in its turn, with other grazings, as part of the milch cow paſture throughout ſummer. During the harveſt months, no beſtial is allowed to enter it, being all that time preſerved for out-wintering paſture. Cattle are put in there ſome time in November, (as into all other winterings), are thence gradually taken out to be houſed the beginning of ſpring, as they may appear to need provender. Some cattle are loſt yearly as they attempt getting to little plots of graſs among high rocks, with which

* The maſters of ſhips and their ſailors call it Loch-bad-well.

the coaſt of the iſland abounds. It is allowed that this iſland is a fifth or ſixth part value of the yearly rent of the whole farm of Oldney.

Cronay Iſland.—This is a little flat iſland, alſo adjoined to Oldney farm; it lies in that pretty large boſom of ſea, which, from the point of Row-ſtore, leads to the anchoring ground of Cul-chu-ig, ſouth ſide of Dorny-Oldney. It is ſheltered on the N. by Iſland Oldney; on the S. by the high rocks of Claſhneſſy farm; but the ſhore of this farm ſhould be kept at a moderate diſtance by any prudent mariner, as it is ſhallow. This ſmall iſland will fatten a half-dozen ſheep, or one cow.

So-ay Iſland.—It lies to the S. of Row-ſtore point, towards the entry of Loch-Inver harbour from the offing. A mariner may make his way to that harbour, by keeping his courſe on either ſide of it, as he may find moſt convenient. This iſland is a pendicle of Inver farm. It is rather flat, though not wholly ſo. It partly abounds with heather, and ſweet graſs. It is much longer than broad; the former dimenſion may be half an Engliſh mile, the latter one-third of that length. Lambs and kids are ſent there to be ſpeaned, and taken thence in two or three weeks; if no other cattle are ſent there immediately thereafter, but the paſture preſerved until the beginning of November, in this event it will prove ſufficient to out-winter eight or nine year-olds of the cow kind.

Klett Iſland.—This iſland is ſituated to the S. of So-ay, at the diſtance of one mile, or thereby. It is a pendicle of Inver-kirk-ag farm, and ſomewhat of a round figure. The diſtance from Inver-kirk-ag to this iſland, by the ſhallow bay of Inver-kirk-ag will be one league. It is not to

be

be approached but of a calm day, and ſmooth ſea. It is but a high rock, conſiderably above the greateſt tide and ſurge, except in one or two places of difficult acceſs when landing; there, however, lambs and kids are ſpeaned, old ſheep fattened, and when no ſuch are in this iſland, it will over-fatten one cow or bullock of large ſize *.

The narrator having all along mentioned in ſubjoined notes, or in the body of this Statiſtical Account, the ſeveral farms which fell in his way, of a long and weariſome circuit, it would become him now to proceed to the immediate diſcuſſion of the more important particulars of this detail; but the mention of theſe are for a little deferred, until, with equal impartiality, the names at leaſt of the intermediate farms are ſimply recorded. The deſign of which is, That in the event any thing uſeful, meriting enquiry or inſpection, may occur in what remains to be adduced, any perſon, from whatever quarter, may know where to find and ſee ſuch objects, without guide or reward to any. Therefore the names of all the farms and inhabited places, not formerly mentioned, will ſoon follow in courſe. But to give as clear an idea as poſſible of the different tracts and directions in which theſe places are ſituated and found, the narrator will ſuppoſe, that a traveller ſets off from Inver-kirk-ag ſhore for Ledbeg on the height of this pariſh; in this event he will either keep by the ſouth ſide of Su-il-vine, or Suggar-loaf-hill, and find the path diſagreeable, abounding with ſtones, in ſome parts with rocks; and in caſe

* A certain gentleman of this pariſh had one fed there, which fattened to that degree, that upon the animal being landed thence, he could not move but with the ſloweſt pace, but that being rather too much, he inſtantly died of ſuffocation by fatneſs.

caſe he would wiſh to give a call, or ſhelter himſelf from rain or ſtorm, there is but one habitable place called Brack-loch, (cloſe by the weſtern end of the great freſh water lake called Ca-um-loch *), a diſtant pendicle of Ledbeg-farm. Or, again, if the traveller ſets out from Tilin-wintering by Ed-ra-vine track †, he will find his way almoſt equally bad for ſaid Ledbeg, though in part opened up ſeveral years paſt. Here alſo is but one habitation, named Clo-ich-a-ry ‡, ſituated in a contracted gloomy hollow, moſtly ſurrounded with rocks. It lies to the north ſide of lofty Su-il-vine. This place is alſo a remote corner of Ledbeg farm, and occupied by a herd of Lieutenant Kenneth Mackenzie, the tackſman. But in preference to both the above tracks, if the traveller ſets off by Inver and Brackloch-Inver farms, keeping along the north ſide of Inver river, he will find his way more comfortable in every reſpect. One hour's walk or thereby will bring him to Little Aſſint ||, and he may

* Ca-um-loch, *i. e.* the crooked loch. Some years paſt the Lord Biſhop of Derry, now Earl of Briſtol, among other parts of the north that his Lordſhip viſited, made an excurſion to this pariſh, and by reaſon of the grand ſcene of this loch, its fine iſlands, beautified with natural trees, birch alſo, ſurrounding lofty hills, ſeen and reflected from the ſmooth ſurface of Ca-um-loch, ſtruck his Lordſhip with ſuch pleaſure and novelty, that he cauſed his French valet draw a perſpective view of the whole.

† Ed-ra-vine, means, Betwixt two mountains, *viz.* Sul-vine to the S. and Ca-niſp to the N. of this track. Some have periſhed here, and ſeverals have been in great danger of the like fate in time of winter ſtorms.

‡ A-ry ſignifies a grazing, having booths for accommodation of milk-maid and herds. Clo-ich, *i. e.* a ſtone, importing that it abounds with ſuch.

|| Oppoſite to it, on the ſouth ſide of Inver river, is the little farm of Poul-a garvie. On the N. W. of Little Aſſint, is the farm of Loch-bannoch; and to the N. of Loch-bannoch lies Poul-la-kar-kan, a part of Tu-

more-

may walk or ride as he may find convenient. Little Aſſint is a wintering, and conſequently a temporary reſidence of Lieutenant John Scobie. He generally has a boat at the weſtern end of the beautiful freſh water lake called Loch-Aſſint. If it can be got, it will ſerve as a vehicle for ſeven miles towards the higher farms here; and then the traveller lands near the parochial kirk; but though the boat ſhould not be procured, it makes no great difference; as upon leaving Little Aſſint, the traveller makes for Tumore, where the road becomes perfectly firm, and continues ſo, not only to Auld-an-na-kal-gach, the preſent march, but as far further as the length of Dornoch or Tain. But to proceed and mention all the other farms of this inland intermediate tract; the traveller leaving Tumore *, has the high hills of Cu-i-nag cloſe by him, to the north; on his right hand is the ſmall winterings of Edra-chalda, at ſame time the winterings of Upper and Lower Tubegs † offer to full view; they lie along the ſouth ſide of Loch-Aſſint, at the baſe of a group of hills called Bine-garve. From Baddy-nacarbad, the ſmall wintering of Edra-chalda, the road

more. Mr Kenneth Scobie, tackſman of it, of Upper and Lower Achmore, and of Ry-an-traid, Cui-nag-hills are attached to theſe farms; they are managed by his overſeers and ſervants here. Himſelf and family reſide on the good corn farm of Scoury, Edrachiliſh pariſh.

* Beſides this tract or road from Inver to Tumore, there is another from Oldeny to it alſo, at the diſtance of a half mile from Tumore, in our way thence for the height, a path or track ſtrikes off this principal road (as we call it) by Ballach-lerag for Sliſhachiliſh, particularly for Glenlerag, Ned, and Ardvare farms; the two former ſituated by the chops of Loch-Ned, the latter not far from it.

† Edra-chalda is the name of the farm; Baddy-na-carbad is that of the wintering.

road leads directly croſs the little, but occaſionally rapid river or burn of Ski-ak, through the farms of Upper and Lower Achmores*, that of Edra-chalda, croſs the ſmall river of Chalda, then through the farm of Culin and Half Camore †; here, about the eaſtern end of Loch-Aſſint, are the parochial kirk and manſe. The way thence leads croſs the river Tralegal, which, at a little diſtance enters Loch-Aſſint, then through the farms of Inch-nadaff, Sronchruby, and Laing, croſs A-na-ka-un river, by Ry-an-cro-vich farm, thence, advancing a little, there is a path which ſtrikes off for Leadbeg farm-houſe, but the public road is continued to Auldan-nakal-gach ‡; the farms from thence weſtward (in the direction of Cloich-glas-maul-a-chirn, *&c.* formerly deſcribed), and lying within that line of march, are Ledmore, Cromauld, Auld-an-achy, Alpine, and Knock ||. The narrator having now faithfully mentioned every particular farm and inhabited place, the manner they are ſituated along ſhore, and how they lie in the inland tracks, he leaves the conſideration and deciſion reſpecting public roads to the Honourable Commiſſioners of the county; only adding, that if theſe roads were begun and finiſhed, bridges built and regular ſtages fixed, probably no leſs curious and uſeful

* Upper Tubeg is adjoined to Iniſnadaff farm, Lower Tubeg to Stronchouby farm.

† From the principal road a track or path ſtrikes off by Achmore farm-houſe for Unapool farm, which is the eaſtern end of Slichachiliſh.

‡ The other half of Camore is the miniſter's glebe.

|| The unfortunate perſon, by whoſe ſingle evidence (in time of the clan conflicts) the grazings or farms of Auldy-vulin, Auldan-farn, Strathſel-kach, Knock-kurny, and Glas-wel, with all parts and pendicles, were ſevered from Aſſint, is handed down to this very day as having laid violent hands on himſelf. That limb once of this pariſh was ſweeped away when the intrepid lairds of Macleod held all this pariſh.

§ There is a tract on bad road from Knochan to the village of Ula-pool

ful objects would caſt up to view, and be found here, than in the Swiſs Cantons, ſo very particularly deſcribed by Britiſh travellers.

Circumference, Length, and Breadth of Aſſint Pariſh.—Concerning theſe dimenſions a conjecture can only be offered, for reaſons formerly aſſigned; however, if the courſe of marches deſcribed in the preceding pages of this account are followed in their various windings along the coaſt, through moors and hills, there is no ſaying but this pariſh may be found 100 Engliſh miles in circumference. Taking the length from Auldan-nakal-gach, or Cromauld, to the point of Row-ſtore, may meaſure from 20 to 25 like miles. The breadth varies much; but ſuppoſing it to be taken from the march of Auld-an-achy, or Knockan, with Coigach, to the lands-end of Loch-Ardvare, in which line only this pariſh is ſuppoſed broadeſt, it is preſumed not to exceed, (or at moſt found to meaſure,) 15 miles. It is an eaſy affair for ſuch as can have recourſe to inſpect the general plan or map of this pariſh *, to inform themſelves of the preciſe dimenſions, by their applying a pair of compaſſes to the ſcale of that map.

Number of Acres.—Theſe muſt be ſeveral thouſands. The narrator can offer no particular conjecture of their number, as the ſurface of the pariſh abounds ſo very much with great freſh-water lakes, and numberleſs leſſer ones alſo; beſides rocks, hills, and mountains of every ſize and dimenſion, ſome of which are inacceſſible, and others of them

* That general map, as alſo particular draughts of every farm, was drawn up by John Home, in time of Lady Sutherland's minority.

them ſo in particular places: Therefore, inſtead of acres, can only be repreſented,

The ancient Diviſion of the Lands of the whole Pariſh.—The ancient diviſion of the pariſh, to this day retained and known by all here, was into davochs of land, which are four: 1*ſt*, The davoch of Ard-Affint, including the whole tract and farms thereon, from Skiak river all along to the march of Ledmore, at Auld-an-nakal-gach, *&c.* to Knock-an, as particularly mentioned in the preceding pages. This davoch was the only one which ſuffered conſiderably by feudal differences and powerful juriſdiction, now happily abrogated ſince 1748.

2*d* davoch, Ed-ra-iſk, extends from Inver-kirk-ag river to that of Inver; its hill paſture lies towards Su-il-vine and Caniſp mountains.

3*d* davoch, Row-ſtore, lies extended along ſhore from Inver river to Garve-auld of Claſhneſſy. The paſture for yell-cattle is the out-ſkirts of all the farms, and called Me-an-Affint, formerly deſcribed.

4*th* davoch, Sliſh a-chiliſh, ſituated betwixt ſaid Garve-auld of Claſhneſſy, along the coaſt of Kilis, to the march of Unapool (as formerly repreſented) with Glencul of Edra-chiliſh pariſh. The hill-paſture of this davoch is in part a diviſion of Me-an-Affint, to the boundary of Glenlerag farm by Loch-nedd. Glenlerag, Ardvare, Ry-an-traid, and Unapool, have out ſkirts, each of their own. For reaſons which will appear in the ſequel, the ſubdiviſions of theſe four davochs muſt not be omitted, for they are ſtill retained and known by the natives; and by attending to it in its proper place, a pretty exact calculation can be made of all the live-ſtock of every ſpecies of cattle in the pariſh.

Subdiviſion

Subdiviſion of the four Davochs.—The ſubdiviſion of theſe four davochs is into oxgates of land, every davoch conſiſting of eight ſuch, making in all 32 oxgates. The practical objects of this ſubdiviſion ſhall be ſtated under a ſubſequent topic.

Surface.—The ſurface was repreſented in the general deſcription given in the beginning of this account, as almoſt wholly uneven, and rocky, having interjacent little glens, fields, plains and meadows, which, during ſummer and harveſt, abound with rich paſture, at no great diſtance from the ſeveral farms and places of reſidence, near to which natural graſs is yearly cut in Auguſt or September for hay, as the ſeaſon may allow. At the extreme marches with the different neighbouring landed property, the ſurface abounds moſtly with lofty mountains, hills, extenſive tracts of heath, having here and there ſoft moſs and quagmires, which often prove fatal to cows and horſes.

Soil.—Along the whole ſhore, the ſoil is of various kinds, ſtony, gravelly, ſandy, moſſy, and theſe for the moſt part interſperſed with rocks and ſtones, ſome of greater, others of leſs magnitude; for which cauſe almoſt all the labouring is performed by the crooked and ſtraight *delving* ſpades, implements of huſbandry peculiar to this and other pariſhes to the N. to the W. and S. W. of Affint. The plough affords conſiderable aid at the farms of Inver-kirkag, Tilin-wintering, Inver, at Oldney, and Little Affint-wintering. The plough might do ſo, in more or leſs degree, throughout the ſeveral other farms of theſe three *davochs* along ſhore. But the inhabitants, being numerous there, think it eaſier, and attended with leſs expence,

to *delve* * their ſeveral diviſions of land, than be at the trouble of clearing the ground, or of uſing horſes and ploughs, eſpecially as their immediate ſubſiſtence depends on their ſucceſs in fiſhing, to which they muſt pay regular attention: beſides, it is found by experience, that there is a much greater increaſe of corn, from the ſame quantity of ſeed ſown in *delvings*, than from the like quantity ſown in ploughed ground; bear ſown in the *ſtraight ſpade delving* is generally found to yield ſixteen in return.

Soil of Davoch Ard-Aſſint, or Aſſint Height.—The ſoil here is, for moſt part, a rich heavy loam; in ſome other places it is gravelly. Limeſtone and moſs abound through the whole extent of it. The fields, though few, and not of great extent, are as regularly laid out as the ſurface will allow; ſome rocks above, and others below the ſurface, give embarraſſment, and require the attention of the ploughman to avoid them; for which reaſon there is in time of tilling a man who attends with the aforementioned crooked ſpade, whoſe employment it is to *delve* the ground where it is ſuppoſed there are concealed rocks and ſtones, in order to expoſe them to view, ſo that neither plough nor harneſs may receive hurt.

Cultivation, Manure, and Implements of Huſbandry.—Yearly from the middle of July to the 15th of Auguſt, the labourer employs a conſiderable part of that time in gathering earth, which he forms into an oval or quadrangular figure; above that are laid ſtrata of dung, lime, and whatever elſe may enrich his dunghills, to which a conſiderable addition is made by the litter of cattle, houſed early in the ſpring. If that ſeaſon be favourable, the tillage commences at or about the middle of February. Oats are ſown in March and beginning of April. Fields

* Dig with the ſpade.

Fields to be laid down with *bear*, and ſuch as are to be planted with potatoes *, after having been once ploughed, are thereafter manured, and upon their being tilled a ſecond time, are inſtantly ſown, and harrowed. Sea-weed is the principal manure, all along the ſhore. Some little tracts of moor and barren ground are yearly every where brought into cultivation by potatoe-planting; but the whole arable ground, ploughed and *delved* throughout the whole pariſh, does not probably bear the proportion of one acre to an hundred, of what is hill paſture, moor and moſs. The old Scotch plough is the only one uſed here; four hardy native horſes are yoked to it. The other implements of huſbandry are harrows, the crooked and ſtraight delving ſpades, Engliſh ſpades, ſome mattocks, *cabbies*, *crook-ſaddles*, and *creels*. It is with theſe two laſt mentioned that the manure is carried on horſeback to the field, as neither cart nor waggon are yet uſed here.

Seed Time and Harveſt.—Seed time, as above mentioned, if the ſpring proves favourable, begins early in March, and in that event, the labouring is finiſhed by the cloſe of May, or ſome days thereafter. If the harveſt be a good one, the crop will be ſecured by the latter end of September; but this happens very ſeldom, by reaſon of exceſſive rains, which, if they come on in March, lengthen the labouring to the 24th of June, and of courſe very probably the ingathering of the crop is protracted to the end of October

* When in the 1765 the narrator was admitted to the charge of Aſſint, there were no potatoes, except a few planted in his predeceſſor's garden. In the 1766, a half boll for ſeed was got, ſmall preſents were made, the manner how to plant, &c. was ſhown. At firſt the natives were indifferent; however, being perſuaded to perſevere, and finding their great advantage, they have ever ſince improved in the ſkill of planting their plots and fields of potatoes.

tober at leaſt, if not, to the middle of November *. If theſe rains continue, and change to ſleet and froſt, which ſometimes happens, the whole labour of the year is either loſt, or, the crop is rendered unwholeſome for man and beaſt; of conſequence ſickneſs prevails among the people, and the loſs of cattle is inevitable.

Climate, Diſeaſes, &c.—In general, the climate is rainy, as much ſo at leaſt as in any tract of equal extent on the W. N. W. coaſt of North Britain. The rain continues not only for hours, but often for days; nay, for weeks, eſpecially if the wind perſeveres for ſo long a time to blow from the weſt; if from that quarter it veers to the ſouth, its continuance there will not be long, but returning, recommences its unwelcome ſhowers. When the wind ſhifts from W. to N. in this event it rains gently for two or three days; thereafter the atmoſphere clearing up, the weather becomes dry and chilly, and continues ſo as long as the north wind prevails. With eaſterly winds there is always dry ſerene weather here, having little or no change to the contrary. During the ſouth wind the weather is favourable; but no ſooner does it veer to the weſt, and continues to blow hard, than in a few hours it begins to rain. Notwithſtanding

* Harveſt 1771 was favourable, the crop was good, and ſafely got in. A very great fall of ſnow took place in the beginning of January 1772, which continued with intervals until near the end of March; intenſe froſt ſucceeded in April; ſo that, notwithſtanding almoſt the whole crop, and all the provender had been given to the cattle, yet more than one third of the live ſtock of this pariſh died. Harveſt 1782 was very bad; very little of the crop was ſecured. It was moſtly loſt, being covered with ſnow. Spring 1783 was more favourable than that of 1772, conſequently leſs loſs of cattle. At this very time, *viz.* September 24. 1793, the barley is not cut down, therefore a very late harveſt is dreaded.

ſtanding that ſuch in general is the climate here, yet there is a conſiderable difference betwixt the heavineſs of ſhowers and other yearly ſtorms falling on the heights, in compariſon of thoſe which fall on the lower parts of the pariſh, called Fa-un-Aſſint; in the laſt neither ſhowers of rain, nor ſtorms of ſnow are ſo violent; whereas on the heights they are often felt ſeverely: In ſhort, ſome winter-ſeaſons paſs near the ſhore, with little or no ſnow, but only intenſe froſt; while at the ſame time, the fartheſt inland end of Sliſh-a-chiliſh, and the whole heights of this pariſh, groan under a load of both. But though the climate be thus rainy, and the air moiſt during deluges ſuch as have been deſcribed, yet upon ceaſing of the rain, a ſmart eaſterly wind ariſing, and continuing for the ſpace of 24 hours, will perfectly abate the waters, carry off all ſuperfluous rain from the ſurface, and moiſture from the air. That the weather here is very changeable cannot be denied; ſometimes very ſerene and pleaſant, but oftener the reverſe, which is the ſtate of all places in ſuch northern latitudes, abounding with lofty hills, as this pariſh does. However, that the air here is healthful will eaſily be admitted, as it is a fact well known, that people from South Britain, and from the Iſle of Man, have lived comfortably here; and, at this very time, natives of the Eaſt and Weſt Indies reſide in this pariſh, enjoying perfect health, acquiring a habit and conſtitution of body almoſt equally robuſt as that of the natives.

There are at preſent here the ſame diſeaſes which pervade other places, ſuch as chincough, meaſles, and ſmall-pox. Inoculation is not yet univerſally introduced, on account of vulgar prejudice. Among the numerous inhabitants who dwell along Sliſh-a-chi-liſh and Row-ſtore, to Inverkirkag river, fevers and diarrhœas ſometimes prevail, owing, as is ſaid, to cold fiſhing ſeaſons. In the 1768, there

was indeed a very infectious epidemical fever, which having been introduced from other places, cut off a great number, the ſtouteſt and moſt vigorous in the ſpace of three days, others in that of four; if the infected ſurvived the fifth, eſpecially the ſeventh day, they generally eſcaped.

Inſtances of Longevity.—Mrs Chriſtian Gray, daughter of the Reverend Mr Alexander Gray, (the late learned and worthy Epiſcopal parſon here), died at the age of 100 years at leaſt. The narrator ſaw and often converſed with her for one or two years after his admiſſion in the 1765. She retained the memory of every thing of importance that came within her knowledge to the very cloſe of life.

Hugh Matthiſon, tenant in Baddy-danoch by Loch-Inver, was, by his own account, 95 years of age. He enjoyed good health, and went a fiſhing in his little boat until within ſome few days of his death.

John Mackenzie, tenant in Claſhmore, ſays, that he is at the cloſe of 100 years at leaſt. He can ſtill threſh corn, and do other domeſtic affairs.

Mrs Mackenzie of Glenlerag, who died much about 1767, ſaw the fourth generation lineally deſcended from her. She was upwards of 100 years, and retained her memory, *&c.* to her death.

State of Property: Whether changeable or not.—The property of this pariſh has perhaps undergone as few changes as any. Tradition, and even documents declare*, that,

* Theſe documents are in the archives of the preſent noble proprietors of this pariſh; and if the narrator remembers well, Sir Robert Gordon of Gordonſtoun hints at this fact, in his hiſtory of that ancient family.

that it was a foreſt of the ancient Thanes of Sutherland. One of theſe prime Thanes gave it in vaſſalage to one Mac-Kry-cul, who, in ancient times, held the coaſt of Coigach, that part of it at the place preſently (1793) called the village of Ullapool *. The Noble Thane made Aſſint over in the above manner, as Mac Kry-cul had recovered a great quantity of cattle, carried off from the county of Sutherland by foreign invaders †. Mac-Kry-cul's family, by the fate of war in thoſe days of old, being reduced to one heir-female, ſhe was given in marriage to a younger ſon of Macleod, laird of Lewis, the Thane of Sutherland conſenting thereto; and alſo making this pariſh over to the new married couple, together with its ſuperiority. The reſult of this marriage was fourteen ſucceſſive lairds here of the name of Macleod ‡. In 1660, or about that time, this pariſh and its ſuperiority became the property of the Earl of Seaforth, who made it over to a younger ſon of his family, whoſe ſucceſſors poſſeſſed it for three or four generations: Thereafter it was purchaſed by Lady Strathnaver, who gave it as a preſent to her Noble and no leſs deſerving grandſon, the late William Earl of Sutherland, father of the preſent Right Honourable Counteſs of Sutherland, married to Earl Gower, heir apparent to the Marquis of Stafford. Thus the barony and

* Larich, Tcay, Mackry-cul is ſtill known at Ullapool village, *i. e.* That very ſpot where Mac-Kry-cul had his houſe is known.

† Scandinavians, who burnt the great fir foreſts on all this and adjacent coaſts.

‡ The ſhort manuſcript hiſtory of theſe gentlemen the narrator read. He thinks it may be found in the library of the late Roderick Macleod, Eſq; of Gadboll, a lineal deſcendant of the lairds of Aſſint.

and pariſh of Aſſint reverted to the Noble family who gave it to Mac-Kry-cul *.

Heritors.—The late good Earl William having got Aſſint †, ſoon thereafter granted wadſets or feus, to the number of ſix. The gentlemen who held them firſt, reſided on the coaſt of Sutherland by Dornoch, *&c.* None of them have their abode here.

Inſtances of good and bad Seaſons.—The moſt remarkable inſtances of bad ſeaſons are the following: In 1766, when the

* Mac-Kry-cul is reported by the people here to be the potent man, of whom are deſcended the Macnicols, Nicols, and Nicolſons.

† This Noble family, in reſpect of antiquity, is equal to any. Some are of opinion, that a prince or chieftain of the German Celti (whom the Roman hiſtorian mentions, Tac. ger. 30. 1.) was progenitor of it. Be that as it will, it is fact that the county of Sutherland, in the Gaelic language is called Shir-ri-acht-chatt; the natives, by the ſame language, are denominated Chattick; and the Earl called Mor-ir-chatt. Further, there is early mention of the Thanes of Sutherland in Buchanan's hiſtory of Scotland; for proof of this the hiſtory of the uſurper Macbeth may be read, who, to poſſeſs the Crown, aſſaſſinated his own couſin, King Duncan I. and put to death ſoon thereafter the Thanes of Caithneſs, Sutherland, Roſs, and Nairn, &c. in the year 1043. However, the ſurvivors of theſe Thanes, conjoining with the other great chieftains of Scotland, expelled the uſurper, and placed Malcolm III. on the throne of his fathers, Buchanan's Hiſtory, B. 6. and 7. It appears alſo from the 9th book of ſame hiſtorian, that in the year 1370, or thereby, King David II. preferred Alexander, ſon to the Earl of Sutherland, by ſaid David's ſecond ſiſter, to ſucceed him as King of Scotland: the nobility accordingly ſwore fealty to him; but Alexander dying ſoon after, the King was reconciled to Robert Stewart, the ſon of his eldeſt ſiſter. In ſhort, this Noble family always concurred in promoting and effecting the general good and happineſs of the ſtate or kingdom. As evidence of this, read Dr Smollet's hiſtory of 1715, vol. 10. where the patriotic conduct of John Earl of Sutherland, in the Houſe of Peers, againſt the Earl of Angleſy, &c. will appear conſpicuous.

the narrator came here, the crop was loſt, alſo the peats almoſt. In ſpring 1772, in conſequence of the preceding indifferent harveſt, one-fourth part of the cattle periſhed. In particular, the caſe was, That a great ſtorm of ſnow came on in the beginning of January; it continued off and on till the beginning of April, when it was carried away ſuddenly by a great and uncommon deluge of rain. Froſt continued throughout April: In a word, though all the provender, and even the corn was given, the cattle periſhed. The 1782 was bad; but nothing ſo diſtreſſing as the laſt mentioned. This ſame 1793 has been diſtreſſing throughout the whole of it; the crop is for the moſt part damaged, and the beſt of it hurt. In ſhort, by obſervation, the narrator can truly ſay, that every 9th or 10th year turns out diſtreſſing, either by loſs of crop, loſs of cattle, perhaps both, if the ſpring proves not favourable; and in the ſame proportion of years preſently mentioned, there is generally a failure of credit by drovers in more or leſs degree; for, as they drive all the cattle ſold here, and other neighbouring northern pariſhes, to the ſouthern markets, they muſt neceſſarily feel the effects of bad ſeaſons and times; and ſuch is the caſe here at preſent. The intermediate years betwixt every 9th or 10th year, are, upon the whole, not to be complained of.

Crop of the whole Pariſh, &c. *and Number of Souls.*—The crop of the whole pariſh conſiſts of oats, the ſmall black kind, of barley and potatoes. When good years occur, the produce of all theſe, on the heights of the pariſh, may ſuffice for ſix or ſeven months at moſt. For the lower parts, and along the whole coaſt, it will probably ſerve for ten months; and in caſe of a good herring-fiſhing, and plenty of them ſecured for family conſumption, the year may paſs tolerably well in this quarter. But in bad years, no leſs

than 1500 bolls at leaſt, (and that uſed with the greateſt œconomy, as an addition to what may remain of the produce here), will ſerve the whole pariſh, which the narrator believes to contain 3000 ſouls. The people reſiding on the height, though by far the fewer, will conſume more victual, in proportion to their number, than thoſe of the low coaſt will uſe; and this by reaſon of the more or leſs ſupply of fiſh from the ſea contiguous to them, which the inhabitants of the height can have no advantage by.

Price of Victual and Proviſions.—The price of victual has of late years riſen very much. About twenty years ago, the writer of this account has known the boll of victual ſold for 8 s. Sterling; a live wedder at 5 s.; the ſtone of butter, equal to 24 lb. Engliſh weight, ſold at 6 s. Cheeſe *per* ſtone, at 2 s. 6 d. ſometimes at 3 s.; a good fat Highland cow at L. 1, 15 s. or thereby; but now the caſe is very much reverſed. The victual now-a-days draws here, *communibus annis*, L. 1 Sterling at leaſt *per* boll, if imported, expence, *&c.* included. If carried from the county of Sutherland, or that of Roſs, in this caſe, ſervants, horſes and harneſs, with tear and wear, muſt be prepared, and will be either five or ſix days betwixt going and returning. At this very day ſhepherds draw from 13 s. to 15 s. for a good wedder. The butter fetches 10 s. *per* ſtone; cheeſe *per* ſtone 4 s. and ſometimes 5 s. The price of black cattle is very changeable here, as already hinted at in the preceding page, and the reaſon for it is the inſtability of droving. Further, it may be eaſily obſerved and admitted, that the multiplicity of licenſed ſtills in the low corn-counties, tend greatly to the rather too great increaſing price of victual.

Wages, &c. *and Price of Labour.*—Wages to domeſtic ſervants is not high here; one with the other included will not

not exceed L. 1 Sterling *per annum*. The great concern of the farmer, or any other head of a family here, is to provide proviſions, cloathing, bedding, *&c.* for his herds, milk-maids, *&c.* The dearneſs of theſe ſeveral articles, together with the expence and trouble of carriage, mentioned above, is the reaſon why the fees of domeſtic ſervants cannot be ſo high in this as in corn-pariſhes. Of old times, and at this very day, there is a proverb uſed in the Highlands, which, when tranſlated, expreſſes literally, That it is for decent food and accommodation, and not for wages, they (domeſtic ſervants) ſerve. Labour by the day is accounted high, being 8 d. 10 d. *&c.*; and therewith they are fed thrice a-day. The reaſon why day-labourers are ſo high in their demand, is, that all thoſe not ſerving in families always reſort to the numerous fiſhing-veſſels on the coaſt, where men well ſkilled in packing, may gain at leaſt 2s. *per* day; ſtrong old women, and induſtrious laſſes, 1s. 6 d. *per* day, by gutting the herrings.

Caves and Pigeons.—There is a very large one in Lofty-ſu-il-vine, another at Knockan; alſo a very ſpacious one at Cul-kin-ach-na-karnan, Go-an-dun-an *, otherwiſe called, Go-na-kal-man. This cave is no great diſtance from the point or land-end of Row-ſtore. Beſides theſe there are many more; to ſuch, and to the clefts of rocks, the pigeons reſort to hatch and for ſhelter. There are no other dove-cotes here.

Woods.

* Go-an-dun-an, called ſo by reaſon of its being near the remains of a dune, built by Scandinavians, when upon their being defeat near Dornoch, and in the adjacent parts of the county of Roſs. To that place they reſorted, and built a dune. Then they burned the large fir-foreſts of Aſſint, &c. Go-na-kal-man, *i. e.* the Pigeon-cove. The Scandinavians having built a large bire-lin or ſhip, they went to their own country.

Woods.—There are ſome birch-trees thinly ſcattered here and there by the coaſt of Sliſh-a-chi-liſh, all along from Unapool to Oldney, both places included. There is alſo of the ſame kind in many different thin plots, far diſtant from one another, from Oldney to Inver-kirk-ag; but this laſt mentioned tract lies at the diſtance of at leaſt two long miles from the coaſt. From Poul-a-gar-vir, on the ſouth ſide of Inver river, thence along in an eaſt direction by Lower and Upper Tubegges winterings, there are woods of the ſame kind. In like manner, there is from Little Aſſint, towards Tumore, the north ſide of Loch Aſſint. The whole woods, though of no great value, are of conſiderable importance to the pariſh, as, in time of great ſtorms and falls of ſnow, every ſpecies of cattle reſort to them for ſhelter; nay, they browſe on the copſe; however, there are in many places ſome ſlender trees, which, if preſerved, as now by the preſent factor, will certainly anſwer the end which the late good Earl had in view; which was, that theſe woods ſhould repair and build the houſes of all his Lordſhip's tenants, alſo the office-houſes of wadſetters and feuers, in the event they thought proper to build here for themſelves *.

Gardens, &c.—There are ſmall gardens, which afford cabbages, *&c.* but there are no orchards.

Kelp, &c.—There is no kelp made here. The little ſea-ware that is, grows within the harbours formerly mentioned; all the remaining part of the coaſt is either bold or ſhallow, conſequently no ſea-weed can grow there, though occaſionally ſome looſe ſea-weed may come in.

The

* All this the narrator heard from Mr Gilchriſt, Colonel Sutherland, and Mr Roſe, factors.

The farmers houſes along the whole coaſt being built either oppoſite or adjacent to the harbours, for that very reaſon the late Noble Earl thought it of greater general good, that the ſeveral farms ſhould have the ſea-ware to improve the uncultivated heathy ſurface, and thereby add to the comfortable ſubſiſtence of his tenants, rather than any trifling pittance whatever that might be offered to his Lordſhip's factors * ; and the ſame plan the preſent Noble proprietors have adopted.

Fiſheries, &c.—Herring-fiſhing has been formerly diſcuſſed. But it is a fact, that ſeveral years paſt a very decent, devout, and beneficent man, one Mr Richard Keld, (he was one of a fiſhing company at Whitby), came to this coaſt, having two ſloops, purpoſely to make trial of cod and ling fiſhing. His principal ſtation he fixed at Culkin-drumbaig; yet, though rather late in his ſetting out from Whitby, he ſucceeded well. He meant to have taken a feu of ſome acres there, with intention to build a fiſhing ſtation. For that purpoſe his intention was communicated by the narrator to Colonel James Sutherland, of Uppall, then factor; but the ſhips belonging to his company having been taken up in government-ſervice as victuallers at the commencement of our differences with our American colonies, Mr Keld's deſign did not take place. Mr Keld, after having returned to England, exchanged one or two letters with the narrator, wherein he ſays, that though by reaſon of his late ſetting out for the fiſhing ground, he was ſhort of his complement, yet that the quality of his cod

* The late Earl made the tour of Aſſint; from Ledbeg his Lordſhip went to Unapool; thence by boat to Clachtoll, where he and his numerous attendants paſt a night; from Clachtoll by boat to Loch Inver; thence to Ledbeg by Edravine road; thence to Dunrobin Caſtle.

cod and ling made up for all, cleared expence, and returned a little profit.

Ferries.—There is no ferry here; the only one that would be neceſſary, is one at Unapool of Aſſint, by Kiliscu-ig to Edrachiliſh, or *vice verſa.*

Seamen.—Properly ſpeaking, there are no ſuch here; but if tugging an oar in a boiſterous ſea can be called the accompliſhment of ſeamen, in this event all the tenants of the preſent Noble proprietors along coaſt are ſeamen.

Ale-houſes, Inns, and Police, &c.—No ale-houſes here, nor inns, except honeſt tenant's houſes, at certain diſtances here and there, on the ſeveral tracks or roads not cleared up, where the weary traveller may now get a good, clean, Highland woollen plaid, and a comfortable pallet or couch to ſleep on. There are no bridges betwixt Aſſint and Dornoch, nor one betwixt Aſſint and Tain, excepting that called the bridge of Grug-ag, near Kincardine, Roſsſhire. If there were bridges, the road is well opened to Brae of Strath-Okel; but thence to Aſſint is a very fatiguing length; no houſes; none of accommodation; that whole tract to Aſſint, is a perfect wilderneſs; the whole is ſheep-farms without ſtages.

Number of Ships.—There are no ſhips here; but many that come to our coaſt and ſafe harbours, do well for themſelves and owners. Lieutenants Mackenzie of Ledbeg, and Scobie of Crom-auld, hire a ſloop from Leith yearly, (and that but of late), to carry away their ſalmon, and ſome herrings which they attempt to cure, in order to make up the lading of the veſſel. One John Mackenzie, tackſman of Inver, and George Roſs, tackſman of Baddy-

naban, cure, each of them, from one to two hundred barrels of herrings, as the fiſhing ſeaſon is favourable, or the reverſe.

Ancient State of Population.—This pariſh having been a foreſt; having undergone as few changes as any whatever of its extent; it is eaſy to ſuppoſe, that though mankind were at firſt but few, they would gradually increaſe; beſides, civilization being introduced by the ſucceſſive proprietors. Alſo, that by far the greater number of inhabitants were ſituated on the coaſt, and having harbours, therefore the common ſkill, knowledge, and induſtry of the natives, together with their beſt exertions engaged to reduce a rugged ſoil; to ſuch endeavours, the health, the ſupport, and equal increaſe of the inhabitants are owing. The narrator is perfectly perſuaded in his own mind, that the natives are a third more numerous than when he firſt came in 1766; which increaſe, under the bleſſing of God, the narrator aſcribes to the cauſes preſently mentioned, as alſo to the benignity of the ſucceſſive landlords or ſuperiors. The preſent number of inhabitants, including young and old folks, is thought to be 3000.

Diviſion of Inhabitants, &c.—There are no religious diviſions here; the inhabitants are of the Eſtabliſhed Church; excepting a few not natives, particularly the gentlewomen mentioned in a preceding part of this account, *viz.* one from the Eaſt, the other from the Weſt Indies. Whatever occupation a man may follow here, he is more or leſs engaged in labouring the ground, tends a few cattle of one kind or other, which is the principal means of living. There is but one ſmith, and he can only fabricate iron as an edging to the crooked and ſtraight ſpades formerly noticed, as alſo the few coulters and ploughſhares

ſhares uſed here; but he has no ſkill to ſhoe a horſe, which, when any have buſineſs to go to the low countries, either Sutherland or Roſs county, is vaſtly inconvenient.

Uninhabited Houſes.—Of theſe there are two in a great ſtate of decay, *viz.* the caſtle of Ardvrack, the reſidence of Donald-Bane-More Macleod, laird of Aſſint; it was built in the 1597 or 1591; the figures are rather worn. It was a place of ſtrength and defence in its day.

The other houſe was built by the Earl of Seaforth's ſon, in a modern manner, of an elegant figure, and great accommodation. It had fourteen bed-chambers, with the conveniency of chimnies or fire-places. Both houſes are ſituated by the north ſide of Loch Aſſint, and not far from the pariſh kirk.

Number of Cattle, &c.—It was formerly mentioned, that this barony and pariſh was divided into 32 oxgates of land. Some of them are more, and others are leſs rated by the old valued rent, as they may have been judged of greater or leſs value, according to the extent, *&c.* However, it is highly probable that the following calculation may be pretty ſure. Then, taking all the oxgates, one with the other, at an average 120 to each:

1*ſt*, Of the cow-kind, including calves, -	3840
2*d*, Of horſes in ſame manner, including their foals and fillies, - - -	384
3*d*, Of ſheep, including lambs, in ſame manner,	3840
4*th*, Of goats, one oxgate with another, 32 *per* oxgate, in ſame manner, - - -	1024
Total number of cattle, *&c.* -	9088

There are no ſwine here.

Coal

Coal and Fuel.—The height of this pariſh abounds with limeſtone. There is no ſaying but coals may be under it, if the vaſt quantity of moor and móſs above it may be conſumed. It were to be wiſhed that a trial was made, as the drying and ſecuring of fuel is *, for the moſt part, a very troubleſome and an expenſive affair. What are called peats are only uſed here.

The Rent of the Pariſh.—The old valued rent of this pariſh is 4000 merks Scots, excluſive of the few ſalmon-fiſhing rivers already mentioned. The real preſent rent is about L. 1000 Sterling.

Iron Mines.—Iron mines were dug here of old. The ore was alſo ſmelted in different places of this pariſh; but the vaſt woods being conſumed by Scandinavian invaſions, it was of courſe given up; but if coal were found, that work might be ſtill tried. At Tubeg particularly, theſe mines were dug, *&c.*; charcoal was plentifully got, the bounds being one thick foreſt. John Sinclair, ſtill living, found a piece of iron; it was of ſhape roundiſh; it was not caſt into bars then; it weighed from 17 to 20 pounds weight. This John Sinclair and his maſter cauſed the ſmith to work it as (caibs) edgings for labouring implements.

Marble.—There is plenty of marble at Ledbeg, Ry-an-tra-id, and Ardvare, cloſe by the Kilis, *&c.*

State of the Church, &c. Schools.—The church and manſe had a very ſlight repair ſeven or eight years ago;

* *i. e.* Peats, or moſs cut in a quadrangular manner, and dried in the open air, and then ſecured.

ſo ſlight, indeed, that owing to the very high winds which occaſionally prevail here, many of the ſlates of both are driven or fallen off, and the rain gets in, particularly into the manſe, and the glaſs windows of both kirk and manſe are greatly injured. At ſame time that kirk and manſe were repaired, there was a very decent parochial ſchool-houſe built; the windows now require a repair of glaſs, and the roof that of a little thatch. Winds occaſionally blow extremely high here. There are two preaching places, one at Achnahiglaſh, otherwiſe called Kirktown; the other preaching place at Torbreck, one Engliſh mile diſtant from Loch-Inver. The diſtance betwixt Achnahiglaſh and Torbreck is eight long computed miles.

The miniſter's ſtipend was, a few years ago, augmented. It amounts to L. 87 : 4 : $4\frac{2}{3}$ Sterling, and L. 3 Sterling to furniſh communion-elements; in all, L. 90 : 4 : $4\frac{2}{3}$. There is no victual-ſtipend; and to ſay truth, no ſuch could at the preſent period and ſtate of agriculture be expected. But the providing of victual muſt be of great expence to every miniſter here. The glebe is half an oxgate of land; the graſs part of it is diſtinct by itſelf; partly rocky and mountainous; the lower part, or fields, is what is here called run-rig *. The glebe goes by the name, The half oxgate of Ca-more. The preſent incumbent cauſed build a very litttle Highland mill, of the ſimpleſt conſtruction, on the north ſide of Fraligal river, and on a particular part of the glebe there. The victual of whatever kind is carried at a vaſt expence, and grounded here, and ſaves the expence of a ſervant.

Within

* That is, half of every little field. The glebe halfs are for moſt part next the graſs of the glebe. It would be deſirable that theſe low grounds or fields were divided into two equal halves, and not run-rig, as it would have a tendency towards improvement. The preſent miniſter has launched too much on reducing and improving the ſurface of his farm and glebe.

Within leſs than one year preceding this (1794) date, there are two ſchoolmaſters; the parochial; the other very humanely granted by the Honourable Society for propagating Chriſtian Knowledge. The former has L. 8 : 6 : 8 Sterling yearly ſalary; the latter L. 12, which was obtained by the application of a few gentlemen graziers here, and the narrator gave his concurrence.

Marriages, &c.—The neareſt account that can be given, after ſtrict enquiry, is the following, *viz.* 10 marriages and 20 baptiſms, *communibus annis.*

Burial Grounds.—As for burial places, at a conſiderable diſtance one from the other, there are no leſs than ſix. 1*ſt*, At Ach-na-hi-glaſh, or Kirktown; 2*d*, At Ged-a-vo-lich, by the weſt of Loch-Nedd; 3*d*, At Ardvare, where, as formerly ſaid, there is plenty of marble under the heather, which indeed the narrator came accidentally to know of, as he happened to be travelling alone, and miſſed the road-track; 4*th*, At Oldney Iſland; 5*th*, At the farm of Store; 6*th*, At Inver farm, near the entry of Inver river to the harbour of ſpacious Loch Inver. All theſe burial places are, for the moſt part, incloſed with a dry ſtone fence. The inhabitants have a regard for the memory of their departed friends and relations, perfectly detached from what we call idolatry, as it only conſiſts in doing all the good poſſible to the ſurvivers of the departed.

State of the Poor, and their Funds.—Properly ſpeaking, though many here are poor, they cannot be repreſented as a burden to the pariſh. The natives are all connected by alliance. When any one becomes old and feeble, their neareſt relations build a little comfortable houſe for them, cloſe

cloſe to their own reſidence; and even there the diſtaff and ſpindle is well managed. Theſe old matrons nurſe the children of their relations; the ſongs and airs of Fingal, and ancient heroes, are ſung in the Gaelic tongue, to which the little children dance.

Old men are prudently engaged in ſome domeſtic affair, ſuch as repairing the houſes of the neighbouring tenants, *&c.* In ſhort, they ſhare with their relatives all the viands of the family.

At this period, the pooreſt ſtranger, even though unacquainted, finds charity and ſafe ſhelter. But there is a very great diſtance (and now no places as of old) in the wilderneſs betwixt this pariſh and the inn at Brea of Strathokell. Such being the condition of the poor in Aſſint pariſh, there are no public funds. The little trifle of money that is collected every Sabbath day after divine worſhip is ſerved, is yearly diſtributed amongſt the moſt friendleſs and deſerving poor.

Eminent Men.—There are none ſuch here in point of grandeur and wealth, except the proprietors. There were indeed, men of conſiderable and acknowledged education, literature, poliſhed manners, and hoſpitality, *viz.* Mr Mackenzie, late of Ardloch, and Mr Roderick Macleod, late of Ledmore. But the narrator ſhould have mentioned as the firſt, a gentleman whom he never ſaw, but heard of his character, and that was the Reverend Mr Alexander Gray, the laſt Epiſcopal parſon here. He, by all accounts, was an eminent claſſical ſcholar. He could fluently ſpeak the European languages of his day, for which reaſon he was preferred as travelling governor to John Earl of Sutherland, when his Lordſhip made the tour of Europe. It is ſaid the Highlanders in friendly converſation called him, *An-Feal-a-roy*, *i. e.* The red-haired Lord.

A few high military characters might be mentioned; but ſuch are preſently paſſed by, as the naming of them would ſwell this tedious account too much.

Antiquities.—It is at leaſt preſumable, if not highly probable, that Scandinavian idolatry did prevail here. The reaſon for entertaining this opinion is, that in iſland Oldney there is a conſiderable cairn of ſtones, which might originally have been a little temple; in that cairn is yet to be ſeen a hollowed ſtone, having a lid, or cover of ſtone; it is not a Popiſh font, for this reaſon, that one Donald Macleod, *alias* Machomaſh, once reſidenter on Oldney-mainland, and other old men in the neighbourhood, all of them honeſt undeſigning men, declared to the narrator, that about 60 years ago there was a round ſtone within the hollowed one, of the ſize and ſhape of a large egg, for which eſpecially, as alſo for the adjacent burial ground there, they and their forefathers had the greateſt veneration: That the above old people ſaw that round ſtone: That on account of its variegated minute colours of bright and ſhade, it was always ſhown to ſtrangers: That it was ſtolen, or privately taken away by a ſeafaring man, to whom, in the uſual manner, it was ſhown as a curioſity. Whether that round ſtone was or was not the ſtone of Loda, mentioned by the immortal Oſſian, the narrator leaves to be decided by reſearchers in antiquities; however, that no leſs ancient bard than ſweet, ſings of "Sniven and the "ſtone of power." The occaſion was, Starno King of Lochlin, having been defeated by Fingal,

* ———— Calls old Snivan,
Who oft had ſung around the ſtone of power,
And oft, when Lochlin's ſons were known to yield,
He turn'd the ſtream of battle on the field.

There

* Vol. II. Book 3. at the beginning of Oſſian's Poems, tranſlated by Mr Wodrow, late miniſter of Iſlay.

There is the cleareſt evidence of the Druids having been here in times of old, as to this day there is on the bounds of Clachtoll farm (three miles directly inland from that ſhore) a prodigious pile of huge ſtones cloſe by a great rock, having an entry through no leſs than we moderns would call two half-moons; next appears an entry by a porch. The narrator made an excurſion from Torbreck to the very place; he wiſhed to have entered; but ſmall ſtones and earth had ſo much filled up the entry, that he could not make his way. However, a boy who attended went in. He had in command not to go farther than the firſt apartment he ſhould meet, for fear of miſſing his way in return. Having returned, he reported, that there were ſeveral paſſages off the large room, into which he entered, and that he thought theſe by appearance led to different chambers. This ancient ruin, in the Gaelic language, is at this very period called, Ty-tal-vine-na-drui-nich, *i. e.* The earthly habitation of the Druids *.

Further, at Ledbeg, a Druidical pruning hook was found ſeveral years ago, in time of peat-cutting. No perſon here could tell what it was, or intended for, until the preſent Earl of Briſtol, then Biſhop of Derry, happened, in courſe of his northern excurſion, to paſs a few days and nights in this pariſh. It having been ſhown to his Lordſhip, he inſtantly declared it, a Druidical pruning hook. His Lordſhip further added, that ſeveral ſuch were found in England, and to be ſeen in the muſeums of the literati there. If the narrator remembers, Dr T. Smollet, author of the hiſtory of South Britain, (vol. 1. at the very beginning) makes mention of the Druids and their pruning hooks, with which they did yearly cut the oak miſletoe, thereby

* The natives here traditionally tell, that the Druids had the knowledge to make beer of the crop of heather, and to cure every wound.

thereby pretending to foretel either a favourable ſeaſon, or the reverſe. Mrs Mackenzie of Ardloch made a preſent of this Druidical hook to his Lordſhip.

Adjacent to the preſent parochial kirk is to be ſeen the only remaining part of the firſt of that kind that was built here. The caſe was, one Æneas, or Angus Macleod, laird of Aſſint, having gone to Rome to viſit the Pope; and the Pontiff conferring favours, the laird in return vowed, that when he returned to Aſſint, he would build and endow a kirk, which the laird performed, to the amount of the fifth part of his then yearly rent. The only veſtige of this ancient building is a vault, a burial place; it is high arched. The preſent Mr Macleod of Geanies, Sheriff-depute of the county of Roſs, as immediate deſcendent of theſe lairds, gave it a repair a few years ago, but not to the better, as one William Cowie, from Tain, employed, pulled down an upper apartment which was over the arch, which the natives reported to be a place for private devotion. Heath now grows on the top of the arch.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The Highland girls of this pariſh for the moſt part marry at the age of betwixt 16 and 21 years; the lads at that of betwixt 20 and 25. There are ſome inſtances of women bearing children to the age of 50 years at leaſt. It is no uncommon ſight to ſee a grandmother give her breaſt to her own grandchild to ſuckle. Some fond mothers nurſe their children for two years. Other mothers nurſe their infants for three; and truly the narrator has ſeen a boy at his mother's breaſt at the age of four years, and then break haſle-nuts under his teeth.

As for dunes, there are ſome to be ſeen here: 1*ſt*, That very large one at Clachtoll, cloſe by the ſea, towards the farm of Store. It exceeds by far any of the kind the narrator ever ſaw. Three circular out-works at regular diſtances, ſurround it on the land-ſide; the boiſterous ocean

defends it on that quarter towards the offing. This dune, if any, is worthy of taking a draught of.

2*dly*, There is one at Claſhneſſy, built on the clefts of two rocks, which ſtretch out into the turbulent ſea there.

3*dly*, There are ruins of a dune in the middle of Loch-Ardvare; the great dune, one at Achamore, the other at Achnaheglaſh, have been taken away to build office-houſes and fences. Beſides the above dunes, there are alſo to be ſeen here *Cairns*, *i. e.* great heaps of ſtones; they are circular at the baſe, and raiſed in the centre, forming, in ſome manner, the figure of a cone. The traditional account of them is, That they were the ſepulchres of the ancient natives, to prevent the then numerous wolves from devouring the bodies of their departed relations. In ſupport of this account, there is even to this day a Gaelic phraſe common here, and among all Highlanders, *viz.* "Mo vis miſh "beo, dei do vas, cara miſh cloich, er do charn-nan;" *i. e.* "If I be alive after your death, I will carefully lay a ſtone "on your cairn," *i. e.* grave.

The volcanic influence ſeems to have had effect here. This opinion is founded on the following particulars: On the bounds of Inchnadaff farm, near its march with that of Stronchruby, not fifty yards from the highway, is to be ſeen a very large piece of limeſtone, or rather lime, that ſuffered fuſion, for it has ſome large common granite ſtones firmly fixed in it. In ſome parts of its ſuperficies it is full of pores, and black. In ſhort, it has all the appearance of having ſuffered the greateſt poſſible heat. Is this the effect of a volcano, or is it not? Again, from Loch Ah, near Layne, a river iſſues, which holds its courſe ſometimes through moſs, gravel, and ſplintered rocks, at length it enters into Loch Aſſint at Inchnadaff; all the track from this laſt mentioned to Layne, being five Engliſh miles, abounds with limeſtone in different forms; but on the oppoſite

poſite ſide of the river Ah, there is not the ſmalleſt piece of limeſtone to be found. It only abounds with heather, moors, bogs, and high rocky hills: This ſevering of the high limeſtone rocks from the oppoſite mountainous bleak hills, joined with the conſideration of the river's channel above mentioned, can hardly be accounted for but by aſcribing them to ſome uncommon convulſion of nature.

Character of the People, &c.—They are in general civil ſober, and hoſpitable to a high degree; but they begin now to obſerve, that neither they themſelves, nor their ſervants, meet equal returns of kindneſs and attention when abroad, as they anxiouſly afford here in their own homely manner. They are patient of hunger, cold, and fatigue, by ſea and land, as emergencies may require. In general, they are ſerious and devout, and do not approve, but highly diſlike the contrary character wherever ſeen; yet, when imprudently provoked or inſulted, they will ſhew themſelves not devoid of reſentment. They are now becoming every day more induſtrious and attentive to domeſtic affairs. Their manners are ſimple and chaſte; few inſtances, comparatively ſpeaking, have occurred here to the contrary, for theſe twenty-five years paſt; and when they have happened, they were candidly acknowledged.

Their ſtated cuſtoms are few. In time of the holidays, relations and neighbouring families mutually viſit, are innocently chearful and facetious. In the proper ſeaſon of the year they repair to the low-country markets to ſell cattle, and other produce of their farms; in return, they carry home victual, and other articles neceſſary for their families.

The ſtature of the inhabitants is in general of the middle ſize. Middle ſize here is called five feet five or ſix

inches. There are ſome ſix feet high, and but a few above that ſtandard.

Advantages and Diſadvantages.—The greateſt advantages of this pariſh are, that it moſtly lies on a coaſt having ſome harbours, *&c.* Its great diſadvantages are, that the climate is both ſtormy and rainy, eſpecially at the heights of the pariſh, *&c.* as particularly deſcribed in a preceding part of this account.

By what means the Situation of the Inhabitants and Pariſh might be meliorated.—By good roads and decent inns. If a road were opened from Lairg by Braemore of that pariſh; thence by Roſehall, Tu-tom-tar-vach, by Finvin, and Garvachirn, thence to Auld-an-na-kal-gach, the preſent march of this pariſh with Balnagown property; any perſon would walk eaſily enough betwixt Dunrobin and this pariſh of a ſhort day. Beſides roads carried on in Aſſint, and inns built, a few bridges would be neceſſary. One ſtore-houſe, if not two; at Loch-Inver one; at Unapool another; the former would be ſufficient to ſerve the low, the latter to ſerve the higher parts of Sliſh-a-chiliſh, and inhabitants of the height. The victual of the Honourable proprietors put up in theſe ſtore-houſes would prevent the exorbitant prices of importers, and ſecure the money to the former. People of enterprize, character, and credit, deſirous of proſecuting fiſheries and manufactures, ſhould be encouraged to ſettle in all places where there are harbours, for there is command of moſs and water-falls along the coaſt, alſo plenty, or rather a profuſion of ſtone and limeſtone to build; for though there is no limeſtone in the low part of the pariſh, if the roads were opened, lime might be had from the height, or from Glencul-edrachiliſh by ſea; by ſuch being introduced, there can be

be no ſaying to what great number the inhabitants might increaſe, and live much more comfortably than they preſently do. Even although gentlemen of enterpriſe ſhould not come, villages might be built in or near the harbours, which in courſe of time would not fail to produce the aforeſaid valuable purpoſes to the Honourable proprietors and the people at large. By either of the above taking place, the pariſh would find a market at home for all its produce, and be able to make better returns. It is as eaſy and ſafe to ſail to any part of the world from this coaſt, and return to it, as any other part whatever of Great Britain. In ſhort, the height of this pariſh ſhould not be depopulated for fear of further encroachments. It is a pity a charity ſchoolmaſter were not ſettled with a moderate ſalary at Ned, and another at Ledmore. Preparatory to the above ſuggeſted, and other improvements, the proprietors ought to ſend a perſon of ſound judgment to view and determine on the whole.

NUM-

NUMBER IX.

UNITED PARISHES OF ESSIE AND NEVAY,

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF FORFAR, PRESBYTERY OF MEIGLE.)

By the Rev. Dr PLAYFAIR.

Situation and Extent.

THE pariſhes of Eſſie and Nevay, 3—4 miles from weſt to eaſt, and 2—3 from north to ſouth, are bounded on the eaſt and ſouth by the pariſh of Glammis, on the ſouth-weſt by Newtyle, on the weſt and north by Meigle and Airly; lying in the preſbytery of Meigle, commiſſariot of St Andrew's, ſynod and county of Forfar; in extent amounting to 8 ſquare miles, that is, about 5120 Engliſh or 4096 Scotch acres; whereof about 2500 are cultivated, 530 in paſture, 220 covered with wood, and the remainder heathy and barren.

Surface

Surface and Soil.—The northern declivity of the Sidla hills compoſes one half of both pariſhes. The ſoil of this diviſion is a thin black mould, on a bottom of mortar; but, its expoſure notwithſtanding, it is more fertile, and yields earlier crops, than any part of that ridge which fronts the ſouth. Towards the ſummit of the hills the ſoil degenerates, and is fit for planting or paſture only. The higheſt part of the ſouthern boundary does not exceed 950 feet above the level of the adjacent plain.

The ſoil of the lower part of the pariſh is various. In Nevay, a level and marſhy tract, containing ſome moſs on a ſtratum of ſand, is a continuation of the extenſive moſs of Meigle. No marl has been found in the former, though there be abundance in the latter. That tract ſtretches eaſtward to the church of Eſſie, and north to the Dean. Some plots of it are cultivated; the reſt affords indifferent paſture. A low and flat territory, north of Eſſie, conſiſts of a ſtrong and rich clay, ill cultivated, and liable to be partially inundated by the river, which, in time of heavy rains, overflows its low banks. To the eaſtward of the church the ſoil is thinner, but friendly to vegetation.

Climate.—A greater quantity of rain falls in this diſtrict than in the low country ſouth of Sidla. Laſt ſpring (1793) the fields in this neighbourhood were refreſhed by copious ſhowers, while the Carſe of Gowrie, and territory to the eaſtward, remained dry and parched. The reaſon of this difference ſeems to be, that all clouds and vapours from the ſouth-weſt are divided near the mouth of the river Earn, and attracted partly by the Sidla Hills, and partly by an elevated ridge ſtretching along the north coaſt of Fife; ſo that little rain from that quarter falls upon the interval between thoſe mountains. But, favoured as Strathmore is in this reſpect, the weather in general is extremely variable.

able. The ſpring is late; the autumn frequently cold and rainy; and during winter the piercing north-eaſt wind prevails. The mildeſt month in the year is July. Seed-time begins about the end of March, and is concluded in two months; the hay-harveſt is in July, and corn-harveſt from the beginning of September to the end of October.

Rivers, &c.—The Dean, which flows from the loch of Forfar, forms the northern boundary of Eſſie, and runs weſtward to the Iſla, into which it falls near Meigle. As this deep and ſluggiſh river paſſes through a very level country, there are few falls ſufficient for the purpoſe of machinery. Between its ſource and termination, the difference of elevation does not exceed 40 feet in the ſpace of ten miles. At Cookſtown, however, a mile W. N. W. of the church of Eſſie, there is a corn and a lint mill, both on the north bank of the river, and a communication to the ſouthward is opened by a bridge lately conſtructed. This river is noted for the large ſize and delicious taſte of its trouts. It contains alſo pike and perch, but no ſalmon, except a few *black fiſh* or *kelt* in autumn.

A rivulet, which riſes in the hill of Nevay, and is augmented by a ſmall ſtream from a drain in the marſh already mentioned, forms the weſtern limit of the pariſh of Eſſie, and county of Forfar. In its progreſs northward it turns a mill, below which it loſes itſelf in the Dean.

Another rivulet, called the burn of Eſſie, deſcends from a hill in the Sidla ridge, bathes the wall of the churchyard, and falls into the Dean. On this rivulet there is a lint-mill about a quarter of a mile S. E. of the church, on the turnpike-road to Glammis. There is no lake nor ſtagnate water in either pariſh.

Eſtates.

Eſtates.—Towards the concluſion of laſt century, the names of the proprietors of both pariſhes were, the Earl of Strathmore, the heirs of Lord Couper, Nevay of that Ilk, Blair of Balthayock, and Lamy of Dunkennie. Three of theſe families have diſappeared, two remain. The pariſh of Nevay now belongs to the Right Honourable James Stuart Mackenzie, Lord Privy Seal of Scotland; and that of Eſſie is divided among five proprietors, none of whom has a ſeat in the pariſh. The lands are under the management of frugal, induſtrious and ſubſtantial farmers. The proprietor of Nevay lately granted new leaſes to his tenants on this and his other eſtates in Strathmore. His moderation and generoſity on that occaſion will not be ſoon forgotten. Every occupier of a farm was ſecured in the poſſeſſion of it, upon condition of paying a very ſmall riſe of rent. Had the uſual methods of ſcrewing and racking tenants been adopted, the landlord might have greatly increaſed his revenue; but he preferred the pleaſure of making ſeveral hundreds of people comfortable and happy.

Farms.—The extent of farms is from 50 to 500 acres. The number of the moſt conſiderable is thirteen. They are in general larger than thoſe in the ſame diſtrict 40 years ago. The enlargement of farms is attended with ſome diſadvantages. When cottages are demoliſhed, their inhabitants are conſtrained to retire to towns in queſt of lodging and ſubſiſtence. When theſe nurſeries of population fail, a ſufficient number of working people cannot be eaſily procured, and the ſcarcity of a commodity proportionally enhances its value. The want of labourers is moſt ſenſibly felt in time of harveſt. Some farmers find it neceſſary to employ bands of ſhearers from the north country, who cut down the corn at the rate of 6s. or 7s. *per* acre, and as ſoon as this work is finiſhed, retire to the mountains.

In a rainy ſeaſon the huſbandman cannot always collect day-labourers ſufficient to manage and bring home the crop, ſo that part of it is ſometimes loſt. This inconvenience is never known where cottagers are one of the productions of the ſoil.

The beſt arable land is let below 20 s. the acre. No rent is paid *per* advance. No ſervices are required, except the carriage of ſome coals from Dundee. A few of the tenants have power to ſubſet; but this privilege is not generally granted. The valued rent of both pariſhes is about L. 1200 Scots; the real rent is L. 1270 Sterling.

An acre of good land well cultivated produces, in ſucceſſion, 10 bolls oats, peaſe 5 or 6, wheat 8, turnip valued at L. 5 Sterling, barley 10 bolls, ſown graſs 180—240 ſtones of hay, beſides another crop for green feeding the ſame ſeaſon. The prices of grain and hay are regulated by the market at Dundee. The expence of labour, proviſions and implements of huſbandry is the ſame as in the neighbouring pariſh of Meigle, (ſee Vol. I. p. 515.)

Incloſures.—Incloſing and ſubdividing, partly by ſtone-walls, and partly by a ditch and bank ſet with quick, were introduced about 30 years ago by the proprietor of Nevay. A great proportion of the whole diſtrict is now incloſed with fences of the latter kind, which ſhelter the fields from inclement blaſts more effectually than ſtone walls, but in a calm and moiſt ſeaſon prevent a free circulation of air, and thereby prove hurtful to the crop. The ditches, however, being ſufficient drains, render the fields in all ſeaſons fit for cultivation. The practice of pruning hedges, ſo as to make the top flat and the ſides perpendicular, prevails. A better plan has been adopted in ſome neighbouring diſtricts, *viz.* to ſlope both ſides gradually till they meet in a ſharp ridge at top. By this mode of dreſſing a hedge, every part

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of the plant being expoſed, receives its proper nouriſhment. In Nevay, rows of trees are planted in the hedges, which embelliſh the country, but eventually muſt be prejudicial to the thorns, and the adjoining part of the fields.

Manures.—Beſide the dung of the farm-yards, and compoſt, conſiſting of weeds, ditch-ſcourings, ruins of mud-walls, *&c.* conſiderable quantities of marl are uſed. This excellent manure, whoſe qualities and operation are now well underſtood, is fetched from the moſſes of Baikie and Meigle. The original price is 8 d. *per* boll, containing 8 ſolid feet. Sixty bolls are allowed to an acre; but, by many experiments formerly made in the pariſh of Bendochy, it appears that a larger proportion will not injure the ſoil, if it be not overcropped. Marl incorporated with compoſt anſwers better than when mixed with farm-yard dung. It is uſually ſpread on the ſurface of fallow, or on graſs, ſome time before a field is broken up.

Live Stock.—Little attention is paid to the different breeds of animals. 141 horſes are uſed for the purpoſes of huſbandry; but moſt of theſe are purchaſed from diſtant counties. No black cattle are employed, though a few are reared. Sheep are entirely baniſhed.

Mines, &c.—Near Caſtletown there is one mineral ſpring, and another on Sidla, a mile ſouthward of Eſſie; but their qualities and virtues are unknown. A ſmall vein of ſilver ore, too inconſiderable to be wrought, was diſcovered ſeveral years ago in the ſouth-eaſt corner of the pariſh. An excellent freeſtone quarry, in the pariſh of Nevay, at the foot of Sidla, has been lately neglected. The ſtone is of a light grey colour, and admits of a fine poliſh.

Fuel.—Peats are found in the moſs of Cookſtown. The appriſed value of every cart-load, together with the expence of digging, winning, and carrying it two or three miles, may amount to 2 s. 6 d. Three cart-loads for domeſtic uſe are ſcarcely equal to one boll coals of 56 ſtones avoirdupois weight, the price of which, including carriage 12 miles, is 9 s. The ſcarcity and dearneſs of fuel have induced many of the inferior claſs to leave this part of the country.

Plantations.—There are few trees in this diſtrict, hedge-rows excepted. On the eſtate of Dunkennie, a mile eaſtward of the church of Eſſie, a ſmall thriving plantation of Scotch fir diverſifies the ſcene; and part of Sidla Hills was planted by the late Earl of Strathmore. A plantation of foreſt-trees on a barren tract to the weſtward, would be equally ornamental and uſeful.

Houſes.—There is no town nor village in Eſſie or Nevay; for the cottages near the church of the latter do not merit either of theſe appellations. The farm-houſes and offices, with a few exceptions, are neatly built of ſubſtantial maſon-work. The dwelling-houſe conſiſts of two ſtories covered with ſlate. The huts of ſubtenants and mechanics have ſtill a mean appearance, though more comfortable than at a preceding period. The farmer's mode of living is as much improved as his habitation. His attire is decent, his houſehold-furniture not inelegant, and his table plentifully ſtored. In affluence he rivals the middling order of proprietors, and in hoſpitality excels them.

Antiquities.—About a mile weſt of the church of Eſſie, on the north ſide of the turnpike-road through the Strath, there is an ancient fortification, ſurrounded on the weſt, ſouth, and eaſt ſides, by a very deep and broad ditch, and

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on the north by a rivulet, whence the ditch was filled with water. Within a vaſt earthen mound or rampart is an area 120 yards in length, and 60 in breadth. Some antiquaries have aſcribed this work to the Romans; but their route lies 2 miles northward, on the oppoſite ſide of the river Dean. Some coins of Edward I. having been found in the area, it is probable this fort, or caſtle, as it is vulgarly called, was conſtructed by the army of that invader. Veſtiges of a large encampment may be traced at no great diſtance on the farm of Ingleſtown, a name which ſeems to favour my conjecture. At the church of Effie there is a ſtone 6 or 8 feet long and 2 broad, with ſeveral hieroglyphical characters engraven upon it, repreſenting a hunting match. The purpoſe for which this monument was erected is unknown. At preſent it lies in a rivulet, and muſt ſoon be defaced.

Population.—The population of this diſtrict has remained nearly the ſame for a century paſt. A. D. 1727, it contained 640 inhabitants. According to the report made to Dr Webſter, the number of examinable perſons was 500; and there are now (A. D. 1793) 630 ſouls. Houſeholders 132, ſervants of both ſexes 102, weavers 29, tailors 4, ſhoemakers 5, wrights 5, maſons 4, blackſmiths 3. Average of marriages 10, of births 20, of deaths 12.

Manufactures.—No manufacture has been ever eſtabliſhed in theſe pariſhes, owing to their local ſituation, and diſtance from any conſiderable market-town.

Roads.—A turnpike-road from Perth to Aberdeen traverſes the pariſh of Effie; and near the manſe a toll-bar was erected ſeveral years ago; but the road weſtward to the limit of this pariſh is ſtill unfiniſhed, and thence to Meigle

Meigle it is almoſt impaſſable during winter. There is no direct road from either pariſh to Dundee; but one from Glammis, and another from Newtyle, to that ſea-port, were lately completed; and the diſtance between one or other of theſe places and the moſt remote point in the diſtrict does not exceed four miles.

Church, &c.—There is a ſmall church in each pariſh, where divine ſervice is performed alternately. The church of Eſſie is ſituated on an eminence, 2 miles weſt of Glammis, and 5 from Meigle; that of Nevay ſtands on a riſing ground, formerly ſurrounded by a marſh 2½ miles S. W. of Eſſie. Both are mean fabrics. The date of the union of theſe pariſhes was prior to the middle of laſt century. The manſe, near the church of Eſſie, has a commanding proſpect to the weſt and north-weſt. It is well built, and the offices are in good condition.

By an old decreet of locality, the ſtipend was aſcertained to be L. 433 : 6 : 8 Scots money, and 4 chalders victual; and the glebe conſiſted of 4 acres of land adjoining to the manſe, 1½ acre at the church of Nevay, and an acre of graſs. An augmentation having been granted not many years ago, the living is now worth L. 90 a-year. The names of the miniſters ſince the reformation are, Mr David Brown, Mr Crichton, Mr Silveſter Lamy, Mr Adam Davidſon, Mr Alexander Finlayſon, Mr Maxwell of Strathmartine, and Mr Ogilvy, the incumbent.

School, &c.—The parochial ſchool and ſchoolmaſter's houſe are ſituated near the centre of the diſtrict, about 1½ miles S. W. of Eſſie church, in a barren ſpot at the foot of Sidla. The ſalary, with other emoluments annexed to that office, may amount to L. 12 Sterling. The number of ſcholars for ſome years paſt has been inconſiderable.

Character.

Character.—The inhabitants of this territory are ſober and induſtrious, ſtrangers alike to intemperance and diſſipation of every kind. The vice of dram-drinking, which if we may rely on Statiſtical information, ſo much prevails in many pariſhes of Scotland, is here unknown. There is not a tavern or alehouſe in either pariſh. Theſe people, however, are open, generous and hoſpitable. That ſervile ſpirit, which diffuſed itſelf among the lower claſs during the rigour of the feudal ſyſtem, no longer exiſts; and paſſions then predominant have ſubſided. They are neither proud nor paraſitical. Mild and peaceable, they are neither ready to reſent an injury, nor to harbour revenge. Attached to the national church, and the preſent form of government, they are not inclined to ſchiſm, nor prone to ſedition, nor liable to change. Not a few of them enjoy the benefits and comforts of ſociety, and all are contented with their condition.

NUM-

NUMBER X.

PARISH OF STRATH,

(COUNTY OF INVERNESS, SYNOD OF GLENELG, AND PRESBYTERY OF SKY.)

By Mr THOMAS FRASER, *of the Inverneſs Academy.*

Name, Situation, Soil, &c.

THE name of the pariſh is *Strathſwordle*, but for the ſake of brevity it is called Strath, which is Gaelic, and ſignifies a valley; but *ſwordle* has no affinity to the Gaelic: probably it is of Daniſh origin. There are two farms in this iſland called Swordle, one of them in the middle of this pariſh. Strath is ſituated in the county of Inverneſs, preſbytery of Sky, and Synod of Glenelg. The form of the pariſh is very irregular. Its length is about 13 Scotch miles, and its greateſt breadth 3½ miles. It is bounded on the E. by the ſea, which divides it from the mainland of Applecroſs and Lochailſh; on the S. and S. E. by the pariſh of Sleat; on the W. by the pariſh of Bracadale;

dale; and on the N. and N. W. by the parish of Portree. The middle of the parish is flat, but the greater part hilly. The hills on the north side of the parish are of a conical form, and very high. Such as have ascended their tops are of opinion, that volcanic eruptions have once taken place here, as the rubbish which is to be met with along their sides and at their bottom is not unlike lava. The hills that lie in the other districts of the parish are covered with heath. The soil is various; in some parts clay, in some places a black loam, but by far the greater part mossy. There is great abundance of limestone; some marble, but of an inferior kind, and too porous to admit of a fine polish. There is likewise a very good quarry of freestone, chiefly of a light blue colour. In the small island of Pabba there is the appearance of iron ore. Marl in abundance is found here in different places. The air is moist and foggy: More rain falls in this parish than in any other part of Sky. The most prevalent distempers are rheumatisms, colds, and nervous fevers.

Fish, Kelp, Harbours, Islands, &c.—The fish caught on the coast are cod, ling, mackrel, scate, flounder, lythe, sye, cuddies, and herring, but very few of these are exported. The herring for a few years back have not frequented the lochs of this parish in such quantities as formerly, nor have they staid so long.—About 100 tons of kelp are made here annually, which, four years ago, sold for L. 6 *per* ton; but for these three last years, has fallen to L. 4, and even to L. 3, 10 s. The two small islands of Pabba and Scalpa constitute a part of this parish; they lie to the east of it, and are distant about two-thirds of a mile. The former is only a wintering place for cattle, of which it may support from 70 to 80 for half a year. The latter is 3 miles in length,

length, and from 1 to 2 in breadth, and is inhabited. The harbours are Loch Slapan, Loch Einart, and the Sound of Scalpa, where veſſels of any burden may ſafely anchor. There are ſome freſh water lakes which are ſtored with red and white trout, and in one of them there are a few ſalmon, which are caught in a copious rivulet that runs from one of the lakes to the ſea. Oyſters, lobſters, crabs, limpets, ſpout-fiſh, and various other ſorts of ſhell-fiſh, are to be found on the ſhores. The birds that moſt commonly frequent the ſhores are the wild gooſe, ſolan gooſe, cormorant, ſcale-drake, duck, teal, ſea magpie, crane, curlew, plover, ſandy lark, with gulls of different kinds. In the hills are deer, moorfowl, and black-game; the wild pigeon, hooded crow, and eagle, neſtle in the rocks.

Population.—With reſpect to the ancient ſtate of the population of the pariſh, little is known. There is every reaſon to believe that it has conſiderably increaſed within theſe 20 years. The increaſe may be attributed to inoculation for the ſmall-pox having been practiſed here for at leaſt 25 years, and to the letting the lands to ſmall tenants. About 15 years ago, the whole pariſh was in the hands of a few gentlemen, ſome of whom had four or five farms; but the number of gentlemen-farmers is now reduced to one or two; and the other farms are let to ſmall tenants, and ten families, conſiſting of five perſons each at an average, are now living, where formerly there were not above three. Ten years ago the liſt of examinable perſons contained upwards of 1200*; none included under 9 years of age. The preſent population, according to a liſt made out in June 1794, is 1579 ſouls.

* The incumbent ſays he cannot be certain as to the exact number, but thinks the above nearly right.

There are here no extraordinary inſtances of longevity, but there are a few now living between 80 and 90 years of age. There is no tradeſman here that confines himſelf ſolely to his trade, but is occaſionally a farmer, fiſherman, weaver, tailor, ſhoemaker, or carpenter, *&c.* There is no ſectary of any kind or denomination in the pariſh. The heritors are two, *viz.* Lord Macdonald, and Mr Macalaſter of Strathaird.

Produce, Rents.—There is no grain raiſed in the pariſh but oats, which are ſown in April, and reaped from the firſt of September to the middle of October. Potatoes make a principal article of the food of the lower claſſes of people. They are planted in April and May, and ready for digging in Auguſt and September. The pariſh annually imports a great quantity of meal. The farmers depend on the ſale of black cattle for the means of paying their rents, and ſupplying their families with what other articles of proviſion and clothing they may need. There are 25 farms in the pariſh, and only about 15 ſmall ploughs of the Scotch kind are employed, drawn by four horſes yoked a-breaſt. Many of the ſmall tenants turn up the ground with the *Coiſchroim*, (crooked ſpade.) The rent of the pariſh, without including the kelp ſhores, is about L. 1300. There are in the pariſh 2213 black cattle, 501 horſes, 2486 ſheep, and upwards of 180 goats. Black cattle ſold this year from L. 2 to L. 3, 8 s. *per* head. Sheep at 6 s. Butter and cheeſe, very little of which is ſold from the pariſh, ſells at preſent, the former 12 s. and the latter 5 s. *per* ſtone. For geeſe, ducks, hens, and eggs, there is no market, nor limited price. The yearly wages for men-ſervants are from L. 3 to L. 5, beſides 3 pair of ſhoes. To an over-

ſeer from L. 4 to L. 7, beſides the ſowing of ſome ſeed. Women-ſervants have from 12 s. to 20 s. beſides ſhoes.

Stipend, School, Poor.—The value of the living may be about L. 80, including the glebe, and a ſmall allowance for communion-elements. The Crown is patron. There is no manſe. There are three different places of worſhip, but only one church, which was formerly a Popiſh chapel. At two of the places of worſhip the miniſter preaches at the ſide of a hill when the weather is fair; when otherwiſe, he enters into one of the tenant's huts, with as many of the people as can follow him. The number of poor on the pariſh-roll is 15. There is no fund to provide for them, but what ariſes from the weekly collections, and the fines of delinquents, which together generally amount to between L. 4 and L. 5 yearly. There is a parochial ſchool, where reading, writing, arithmetic, and Latin are taught. The ſalary and ſcholar's fees may amount to L. 22 annually. The number of ſcholars attending in winter will be about 60; in ſummer ſcarce the half. An additional ſchool is much needed in the pariſh.

Antiquities, Natural Curioſities, Language.—In the pariſh are the remains of four Popiſh chapels, *viz.* one at Aiſk, one at Kilbride, one at Kilmori, and one in the ſmall iſland of Pabba. On the weſt ſide of the pariſh are the ruins of ſeven towers of a circular form, erected on rocks; every one of theſe towers are built in ſight of one or more of the ſame. From the ſouthmoſt of theſe towers are to be ſeen others in the pariſh of Sleat, and from theſe laſt, others on the oppoſite ſhore of Ariſaig. On the eaſt ſide of the pariſh are a number of tumuli, and in ſuch of them as have been dug up were found urns full of aſhes. There is a tradition

tradition that a battle was fought here by the Danes. In the diſtrict of the pariſh called Strathaird, are a number of caves. A man entered lately into one of them, with a lighted candle, in order to examine it, but could not proceed, by reaſon of its dampneſs, and the drops of water that fell from the top of it. In one of theſe caves Charles Steuart, the Pretender, lodged for ſome nights in 1746. In the higheſt part of the iſland of Scalpa there is a petrified rock of moſs, in which are a variety of ſhells; and in many other places throughout the higher parts of the iſland, great quantities of ſhells are to be met with ſeveral feet under ground. In the ſmall iſland of Pabba, formerly mentioned, are to be ſeen, in the rocks and ſtones in the ſhore, ſeveral petrified fiſh, of different ſizes, generally indeed below ten inches; but there are eels of nearly double the length. Some appear whole, and others broken, and when ſtruck forcibly with a ſtone or hammer, they often ſplit in two, and the marks of the bones are viſible in the rock. The language ſpoken here is the Gaelic, yet few of the names of places ſeem to be derived from it.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The people in general are of the middle ſize. In a tolerable degree they enjoy the comforts of life. Their dreſs, diet, and lodging, however, ſtand ſtill in need of amendment. It is the general opinion, that their condition would be ameliorated if they had longer leaſes, and greater encouragement for improvements. They much regret that their proprietors ſtay too ſhort time among them, to obtain a full and true account of the real ſtate of the people. The inhabitants, for want of a ſufficient capital, are unable to proſecute the fiſhing to any extent. But if the proprietors would take the fiſh and black cattle in payment of the rents, or even procure good markets

kets for both, it would undoubtedly ſpur on the tenants to induſtry. Would not the bounties and premiums (excluſive of the fiſh) be of eſſential benefit to the Highlands, if the inhabitants could obtain them? Would not the money thus acquired be in part, at leaſt, laid out in improving the country? Peat is the only fuel uſed here; a great part of the ſummer is waſted in digging and leading them home. The roads through the pariſh are very indifferent There is but one inn in the pariſh, yet whiſky, brought from Ferrintoſh, is ſold by the bottle in many places. If this practice is tolerated, there is danger that the people become poor, quarrelſome, and immoral. There are two tryſts for cattle held in the pariſh annually, on the laſt week of the months of May and July. There is one ferry (on the poſt-road from Inverneſs to this country) at Keil, the S. E. extremity of the pariſh. Salt is often here a ſcarce commodity. It has happened, oftener than once, that an ounce of ſalt was not to be had here, at the very time when the greateſt ſhoals of herring entered the lochs; and a barrel of herring has ſold freſh for 2 s. which, if ſalted, would have ſold for 12 s. Some waſte lands have lately been improved. Mr Macdonald, tackſman of Scalpa, has given encouragement to a few families to ſettle on a part of his extenſive farms, and this colony, from the aſſiſtance given them by that gentleman, and their own induſtry, are now in a thriving condition. The mode of dreſſing the corn to be ground by what is called *Gradan*, is here ſtill in uſe. By this operation they ſave the trouble of threſhing and kiln-drying the grain. Fire is ſet to the ſtraw, and the flame and heat parches the grain; it is then made into meal on the *quern*. This meal looks very black, but taſtes well enough, and is eſteemed very wholeſome. The whole of the work is performed by the women. The

only

only apology given by themſelves, for this mode of preparing the grain, is, that the quantity of grain which the generality have is very ſmall, and many of them are at a great diſtance from a mill. The cattle do not want the ſtraw, becauſe they lie out all winter in good paſture, and as ſnow does not lie long on the ground, they can always have enough of food.

NUM-

NUMBER XI.

PARISH OF BOWDEN,

(COUNTY OF ROXBURGH, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TEVIOTDALE, AND PRESBYTERY OF SELKIRK),

Drawn up by a Friend to Statiſtical Inquiries, from Materials chiefly furniſhed by Mr ANDREW BLAIKIE, *Tenant in* Holydean, *who has reſided* 35 *Years in that Pariſh.*

Name, Boundaries, and Extent.

IN the charter granted by King David I. to the Abbey of Selkirk, mention is made of *Bothenden*, which ſeems to favour the conjecture of this pariſh being named after a *St Bothen* or *Bodwin*, and the ſcite can ſtill be pointed out of his tower near the village. Yet the name may be derived from a *den* or *dean* in the *bow* or curve of a ſmall rivulet, which is deſcriptive of the place where the church is ſaid to have once ſtood. It is bounded on the N. by Melroſe pariſh; on the E. moſtly by St Boſwells, though partly alſo by Langnewton annexed to Ancrum; on the S. by Lilliesleaf; on the W. by Selkirk; and on the N. W.

by Galaſhiels. Its greateſt length from E. to W. is 6 miles. Its greateſt breadth from S. to N. is about 4½ miles. At an average it may be about 4 by 3 miles. The whole pariſh having been meaſured, either for the diviſion of run-rig lands, or for being let by the acre, is known to contain nearly 6700 acres *.

Surface, Soil, and Climate.—The ſurface is much varied. One of the Eildon hills, and one half of another, are in this pariſh. From one broad and elevated baſe, three conical tops ariſe, which, from their ſituation in a flat country, more than from their height, are ſeen at a great diſtance. Some parts of them alſo being covered with a kind of red ſtone, without a pile of graſs, have a ſingular and ſtriking appearance. Several little eminences and ridges run from W. to E. with ſmall vallies of fine meadow between them, all abounding with ſprings of water, which, when collected, run into Tweed, about two miles to the eaſtward of this pariſh, except one or two ſtreamlets which fall into Ale water, its ſouthern boundary. In general, the whole pariſh is naturally graſſy, except about 200 acres, including the higher parts of theſe ridges, which are inclined to broom or furze, and about the ſame quantity bearing a kind of ſtunted heath. About 3-4ths of the pariſh have been, at one time or another, under the plough. The other 1-4th conſiſts of bog, moſs, and plantations of fir and foreſt trees. Of theſe laſt there are too few, eſpecially as they are profitable to the proprietor, as well as to the farmer, for ſhelter, and to the people for fuel. There is ſome old wood, but of no great extent. Two-thirds of the pariſh are incloſed moſtly with ditch and hedges of thorns,

* Here, and throughout the following account, the Engliſh acre is always meant, as is alſo the Teviotdale meaſure, which is preciſely 1-5th more than the Linlithgow ſtandard.

thorns, which thrive well when properly taken care of. The ſoil of far the greateſt part is a white binding clay on a tilly bottom, which retains moiſture, becomes hard in drought, and can only be laboured and ſown to advantage when the ſeaſon is neither too wet nor too dry. About 1-6th of it is well adapted to wheat; another 1-6th is ſharp, lets water eaſily ſink, is very manageable, and produces good turnips, corn, and graſs. Moſt of the pariſh is, on the whole, as well ſuited to paſturage as to tillage, and will pay as well. The expoſure in general is high and eaſterly, which, together with the clayey ſoil, renders the crops often late, precarious, and apt to ſuffer much from rainy harveſts and early froſts. In the 1782, a great deal of corn was uncut at Martinmas, and ſeveral farmers, inſtead of paying their rents from their crops, were obliged to purchaſe grain. Many oats yielded that year no more than 3 ſtone of meal *per* boll.

Farms, Rents, Heritors.—The farms are very unequal, paying L. 400, L. 200, L. 100, L. 70, L. 60, and even ſo low as L. 10, and L. 8 Sterling of yearly rent in money, beſides a few carriages, one half of the poors-rates, and one half of the ſchoolmaſter's ſalary. The ſoil differing greatly in value, lands, in farms, are let at from 15 s. to 5 s. *per* acre. Some ſmall fields near the villages of Middleham and Bowden are rented for conveniency for L. 1, 10 s. *per* acre, while ſome tracts of outfield high lands do not fetch above 2s. 6 s. The whole real rent of the pariſh may at preſent amount to L. 2300 Sterling. The valued rent is L. 8030, 11 s. Scots *; of which the largeſt half belongs to the Duke of Roxburgh, his valuation being L. 4121, 11s. Scots.

* A new analyſis of the valuation of the whole county reduces the valuation of this pariſh to L. 7930 : 10 : 10.

Scots. There are only three other conſiderable proprietors, all of whom occaſionally reſide, and about 50 ſmall feuers in Bowden and Middleham, who pay of teind, feu, *&c.* to his Grace about 1-8th of the yearly value of their ſubjects *.

Cultivation, Manures, and Produce.—There were formerly 26 ploughs in the pariſh, each drawn by 2 oxen, and 3, or at leaſt 2 horſes; and 10 or 12 drawn by 2 horſes only. No oxen are now employed. Some attempts to work them by themſelves are not likely to ſucceed; ſervants being prejudiced againſt them, and doing all in their power to prevent this practice from taking place. There are at preſent 44 ploughs, each drawn by 2 horſes, and both driven and held by one man. The change has not contributed much to raiſe better crops, or to benefit the farmer. The Engliſh plough, with the broad or plate ſock, is univerſally uſed; though ſome are returning occaſionally to the old Scots plough, which is certainly preferable in ſtony or ſtrong clay lands. Several moſſes in the pariſh and neighbourhood, abounding with ſhell marl, have lately been drained. Thoſe in the pariſh belong to the Duke of Roxburgh, and the marl is uſed only by his tenants; but in the neighbourhood, it is ſold at 6 d. *per* cart drawn by one, and at 9 d. *per* cart drawn by two horſes, and can be carried 6 or 7 miles to good advantage. Thirty of the one, or forty-five of the other, are laid on an acre of the ſharp dry land. Strong clay lands require more. Lime is alſo brought from Mid-Lothian, about 28 miles, at the rate of 12 s. *per* cart, containing nearly 3 bolls of ſhells, and uſed in the proportion of 6 carts to 25 of marl. Both contribute

* Their number is daily decreaſing, the richer purchaſing the propertie of the poorer.

to raiſe excellent crops of corn and graſs. Lime produces better grain, but marl anſwers beſt for graſs, eſpecially for paſture. After trying many varieties of every grain, the moſt approved are now white oats, barley bear, (ſo called to diſtinguiſh it from rough bear, or big); early peaſe, here called hot ſeed; and Kentiſh, or Cleaveland wheat. Very little rye is ſown, and no flax but for family uſe. On about 1650 acres, about 1100 bolls of different grains are annually ſown; nearly as follows, *viz.* 120 of wheat, 100 of peaſe, 750 of oats, and 130 of barley; which laſt is followed by a hay crop. There are beſides 140 acres, yearly, in turnip; 50 in potatoes; and 160 in fallow. Turnips are generally ſucceeded by barley; potatoes ſometimes by barley, but more commonly by oats; fallow partly by wheat and partly by oats; and lands, ploughed out of lee or paſture, are always ſown with oats. After maintaining the inhabitants, the annual exports may be about 350 bolls of oat-meal, at L. 1, 5 s. *per* boll; 300 ditto of barley, at 18 s.; and 450 ditto of wheat, at L. 1, 2 s. amounting in all to L. 1202, 10 s. *per annum*.

Horſes, Black Cattle, Sheep, and Wool.—There are 160 horſes of different ages in the pariſh, one-fourth of which are too young for labour. The black cattle of all ages may be 540. About 90 are reared yearly, and about 50 are ſtall-fed for the butcher, which weigh at an average from 45 to 50 ſtone of 16 lb. Dutch weight *. The cows of the ſame breed, when fattened, weigh about 36 ſtone. About 80 ſwine are annually fed, moſtly by tradeſmen. They are bought in England in October or November, when 3 or 4 months old, at 10 s. or 12 s. each; and after feeding for

* The Dutch weight is always meant, when meal, grain, or butcher meat are ſpoken of. The Scotch weight, of 24 Engliſh lb. to the ſtone, is uſed for ſelling wool, cheeſe, butter, and hay.

for 4 months on the refuſe of potatoes, and a little bruiſed oats or barley, they weigh 10 or 12 ſtone. Being killed ſo young, they are very fine food, and of great ſervice to a family. The number of ſheep is about 2300, moſtly of the white-faced long-bodied kind, and weighing from 12 lb. to 14 lb. *per* quarter. Till of late, little attention was paid to the improvement of wool; but now the encouragement given by premiums, and the force of example, have, perhaps, carried the ſtock of ſheep here to as great perfection in that reſpect as the climate and ſoil will admit. The wool has ſold for 18 s. *per* ſtone. The common diſeaſes of the ſheep are the rot, a kind of conſumption occaſioned by overſtocking the paſtures, and by rainy ſeaſons, eſpecially a rainy autumn; and the *ſturdy*, or water in the head, which attacks them when about a year old, chiefly in the months of April, May, and June; and is of ſo corroſive a nature as to perforate the ſkull into holes large enough to admit a pea or ſmall bean. One ſheep in 40 falls by this diſeaſe. Such as are affected by it become at firſt giddy, afterwards ſtupid, and ſeldom or never recover. No ewes are milked. The cheeſe and butter, made from cows milk, are moſtly conſumed in the pariſh, eſpecially the latter; which is much uſed in *ſalving* the ſheep, at the rate of from 4 lb. to 6 lb. to the Scotch pint of tar.

Population.—The population of this pariſh in 1755 amounted to 672 ſouls. At preſent (January 1794) the pariſh contains 217 families, and 860 perſons; of whom there are,

Under 10 years of age, - -	223
Between 10 and 20, - -	189
Between 20 and 50, - -	321
Above 50, - - -	127
Total, - -	860

Of

Of theſe, 10 are above 80 years; and of theſe 10, 3 are 85, and 2 are upwards of 90.

The births, marriages, and burials, recorded in the pariſh-regiſter, for the laſt 8 years, are as follow:

Years 1785,	Births	14	Marriages	6	Deaths 15
1786,		15		9	18
1787,		19		10	15
1788,		13		5	10
1789,		14		6	10
1790,		16		5	7
1791,		11		6	7
1792,		9		4	13
	Total,	115		51	95
	Average yearly,	$14\frac{7}{8}$		$6\frac{3}{8}$	$11\frac{7}{8}$

Moſt of the inhabitants are either feuers, farmers, or cottagers employed by them, except the after mentioned, *viz.*

14 Wrights,	2 Shoemakers,
3 Coopers,	6 Grocers,
1 Wheelwright,	3 Blackſmiths,
13 Tailors,	1 Founder,
11 Maſons,	2 Flaxdreſſers, and only
12 Weavers,	4 Alehouſe-keepers.

About one third of the inhabitants are Burghers and Antiburghers. The latter have a meeting-houſe in the pariſh; the congregation of which, from this and other pariſhes, pays their miniſter L. 60 *per annum*. There are 4 corn-mills, each of which draws ſome multures; but that ſervitude is beginning to be aboliſhed. A threſhing machine is newly erected, which does a great deal of work; but when the prime coſt, and intereſt thereon, tear and wear of every kind, the number of hands, and the extraordinary waſte of horſes, are all taken into the account, it may not be of great profit to the proprietor.

Fuel

Fuel and Labour.—There are no manufactures, owing to the dearneſs of fuel. Coals muſt be chiefly depended on; and they are brought 28 and 30 miles from Lothian, at the rate of 1 s. *per cwt.* Few or no peats are to be had; but the people are much benefited by weedings of plantations, which are frequently ſold in the neighbourhood. Small feuers and tenants, who have not ground enough to employ themſelves and horſes, drive coal, lime, and marl for hire; the lime at 9 s. and the marl at 1 s. 4 d. *per* two-horſe cart, or at 4 s. *per* day for a man, cart, and 2 horſes. The wages of a man-ſervant, who eats in the houſe, are from L. 7 to L. 8 Sterling *per annum.* Maid-ſervants get L. 2, 10 s. and L. 2, 15 s. for the ſummer, and L. 1, 5 s. for the winter half-year. But a married farm-ſervant, who provides his own victuals, receives about the value of L. 14 or L. 15 Sterling in oats, barley, peaſe, flax, potatoe, and the maintenance of a cow through the year. Upon theſe wages he may bring up his family in a decent manner, and give his children a tolerable education, if he and his wife be induſtrious and frugal. In harveſt, which commonly laſts about four weeks, a man gets L. 1, 6 s. and a woman L. 1, and their maintenance. At all other times, a man gets 1 s. 2 d. *per* day, and a woman 7 d. or 8 d. in ſummer *, and a man 1 s. in winter, both furniſhing their own victuals. Men working by the piece do at leaſt 1-4th, if not 1-3d more than on day's wages; which makes their employers let as much work by the piece as they can. A maſon earns 1 s. 8 d. and a carpenter 1 s. 6 d. *per* day without victuals. A carpenter gets 1 s. and a tailor 8 d. with their victuals. Servants wages are doubled within theſe 40 years.

Diſeaſes.

* Summer, with men on day's wages, begins on 13th February, and laſts 8 months.

Diſeaſes.—No diſeaſes are peculiar to this pariſh. Fevers, at an interval of perhaps 8 or 10 years, have proved mortal; and the natural ſmall-pox carry off many children. Inoculation, that ſalutary mean of preſerving them, is far from becoming general; the Seceders being much prejudiced againſt it, though in many families it has been attended with its uſual ſucceſs. Conſumptions are not unfrequent; but, on the whole, the people enjoy good health.

Eccleſiaſtical State, Schools.—The church is old, long, narrow, and needs reparation. A vault adjoining to it is the burying-place of the ducal family of Roxburgh. The coffins are above ground; and ſome of them, by the dates upon them, have ſtood upwards of 200 years, and are ſtill entire. An excellent manſe and office-houſes are newly finiſhed. The ſtipend conſiſts of 5 chalders of victual, Lin meaſure, 2-3ds of which are oat-meal, and 1-3d is barley, 400 merks in money, and 40 merks for communion-elements. The glebe is 16 Engliſh acres, about 3 of which are meadow. The Duke of Roxburgh is patron. The parochial ſchoolmaſter at Bowden has a ſalary of L. 8, 6s. 8 d. Sterling, and about 70 ſcholars. Of theſe, 30 read Engliſh at 1 s. *per* quarter, 25 both read and write at 1s. 6 d. and about 15 commonly are taught arithmetic, book-keeping, and mathematics, on ſuch terms as can be agreed upon. The ſchoolmaſter has about L. 3 for collecting poors-rates, and a dwelling-houſe and garden worth L. 2, making in all about L. 30 yearly. There is alſo a ſchool and a ſchool-houſe at Middleham. The maſter has a ſalary of L. 3, and gets his victuals, during the teaching ſeaſon, from the different families, according to the number of children they have at the ſchool, which, at an average, is about 30, ſo that he cannot draw annually above L. 7 or L. 8 Sterling.

Poor

Poor.—The number of poor on the roll for the laſt ſeven years has been 20. They are all maintained in their own houſes, or boarded in other families. The annual ſum expended upon them, may amount to L. 65 Sterling, which is levied at two different times in the year from the proprietors and tenants equally. This aſſeſſment is laid on by the proprietors; but the tenants have a vote in the diſtribution of it. The collections at church on Sundays are ſmall, and do little more than pay the ſalaries of the precentor and beadle. There is only one beggar in the pariſh; but ſtrolling poor from other places come among us at all ſeaſons.

Roads.—The roads are pretty well taken care of by the Juſtices of the diſtrict. Formerly 1 s. 6 d. for each man, and 2 s. for each horſe, were levied annually for ſtatute-labour. By a late act of Parliament, it is now laid on according to the valued rents, and paid by the poſſeſſors. The management is veſted in Juſtices of Peace and Commiſſioners of Supply, and other truſtees. The utmoſt they can exact is 10 s. Sterling on the L. 100 Scots of valued rent, but they can make it as low as they pleaſe when the ſtate of the roads allow.

Birds and Beaſts.—There are plenty of partridges, ſome plovers, woodcocks, ſnipes, curlews, and other birds, both ſtationary and migratory, which are common in this part of Scotland. Little injury is done by birds of prey; but much was formerly ſuſtained from foxes, to which the furze and bruſh-wood on the lower ſkirts of Eildon, both in this and Melroſe pariſh, afford cover. Of late, however, their number has been diminiſhed by the Noblemen and Gentlemen

of

of the Caledonian Hunt, and others who keep hounds. Hares abound.

Character of the People.—The people in general are ſober and induſtrious. Few of them engage in adventures or ſpeculations, except in the line of farming, and even there with a prudent caution. Their diviſions, in religious opinions, do not now occaſion ſo great a want of cordial intercourſe as formerly, and the prejudices of ſects are daily dying away.

Antiquities.—The remains of a military road, with circular ſtations or camps, at the diſtance of two or three miles, ſuppoſed to be Roman, can be traced, running nearly N. through the centre and broadeſt part of the pariſh, about a mile to the weſtward of the church, from Beaulieu in the pariſh of Lilliesleaf to Caldſhiels in the pariſh of Galaſhiels. In ſome places, all veſtiges of it are deſtroyed by the plough; but in other places traces of it are ſtill viſible, in the form of a large ditch, about 20 feet wide; and in ſome ſpots, of two ditches of that width, at the diſtance of 50 feet. The camps or ſtations are all on eminences in view of each other; and different weapons, or inſtruments of war, have been dug up by people ploughing or ditching around them, as well as in the adjacent moſſes.

There was, not long ago, a ſtrong fortification, of its kind, at Holydean or Haliedean, once a reſidence of the family of Roxburgh. The court-yard, containing about $\frac{1}{4}$ of an acre, was ſurrounded by ſtrong ſtone and lime walls, 4 feet thick, and 16 feet high, with ſlanting holes, between five freeſtones, about 30 feet from each other; from which an arrow or a muſket could have been pointed in different directions. Upon an arched gateway in the front there was a ſtrong iron gate. Within the court ſtood two ſtrong towers,

towers, the one of 3, the other of 5 ſtories, conſiſting of 8 or 10 lodgeable rooms, beſides porters lodges, ſervants hall, vaulted cellars, bakehouſes, *&c.* The roof and flooring, being all of the ſtrongeſt oak, if kept in the ſtate in which they then were, might have ſtood for a century. But during the minority of the preſent Duke, while he was abroad, without his knowledge, his then commiſſioner ordered this building to be moſtly pulled down, merely for the ſake of getting the freeſtones in them to build a large farm-houſe and appurtenances, at the diſtance of 3 miles, though the difficulty of ſeparating theſe ſtones from the lime made them a dear purchaſe. Some of the vaults ſtill remain, and are uſed by the tenant; and about 160 feet of the court wall are perfectly entire, which makes the demolition of the reſt to be much regretted, as the whole building was ſtately and ornamental to the place, as well as venerable for its antiquity. One ſtone, preſerved from the ruins, and now a lintel to the door of the farm-houſe at Holydean, has in the middle an unicorn's head and three ſtars, with this inſcription on either ſide:

Feer God. Flee
from ſin mak
to the lyfe



Everlaſting
to the end
Dem Iſbel Ker 1530

About 140 yards from the principal houſe on the top of a precipice hanging over a burn, there had been a chapel or place of worſhip, and a burying ground, as appears from a number of grave ſtones, handles of coffins, and pieces of human bones, which have been dug up from time to time. Hence probably has ariſen the name *Holydean* or *Haliedean.*

The greateſt curioſity, perhaps, of its kind in Britain, is a ſtone dike without lime, which incloſes about 500 acres of this farm, and has ſtood more than 300 years, yet is ſtill a tolerable fence. It has at firſt been 6 or 7 feet high,

with capſtones. In an old tack, this incloſure is called, "*The great deer park of Haliedean*," and was once full of wood; but it has long been ſubdivided, and all the trees cut down, except a few old birches.

Here, as well as in other parts of Scotland, many birch, fir, and oak trees have been found in the moſſes; ſome of them 3 feet in diameter, and ſeveral of the firs and oaks quite ſound. They generally lie from 3 to 8 feet below the ſurface. Human bones alſo, and many horns of different animals, have been dug up, quite beyond the ſize of the largeſt to be any where ſeen at this time. How the former were laid there, and how the latter acquired their enormous ſize, leaves room for conjecture. Where they are found, the ſubſtance of the moſs is condenſed fog, to appearance as freſh and diſtinct as that upon old lea ground. This too may afford matter of curious ſpeculation.

The family of Carre of Cavers deſerves alſo to be mentioned, as one of the moſt ancient in the S. of Scotland. Their chief reſidence, for many generations, has been in the pariſh. George Carre, Eſq; of Niſbet, a Lord of Seſſion, was deſcended from a branch of this family. They are ſuppoſed to have ſprung from Kerr of Ferniherſt. One of their anceſtors claimed the title of Lord Jedburgh; but from the different manner in which they ſpell their name, it ſeems probable, either that they are a diſtinct family, or a very old cadet.

NUMBER XII.

PARISH OF ANSTRUTHER EASTER,

(County and Synod of Fife, Presbytery of St Andrew's).

By a Friend to Statiſtical Inquiries.

Situation, &c.

THIS pariſh is ſituated on the ſea-coaſt, between Kilrennie and Anſtruther Weſter, (from which it is divided by a ſmall river), in the Preſbytery of St Andrew's.

The obſervations that occur in the Statiſtical Account of theſe two pariſhes, as to the ſoil, climate, fiſhing, price of proviſions, equally apply to Anſtruther Eaſter, and need not be repeated here.

Church, Stipend, &c.—Till the year 1636, the town of Anſtruther, and the barony, was in the pariſh of Kilrennie; but though the church was at Kilrennie, the miniſter reſided at Anſtruther, and was ſtyled the miniſter of that town. In the above mentioned year, the town of Eaſter

Anſtruther

Anſtruther was erected into a ſeparate charge, and a church built. The ſtipend ariſes from the tithes of the fiſh, a grant from his Majeſty of part of the biſhops rents, and ſome money mortified for that purpoſe, and may be reckoned between L. 70 and L. 80. Sir John Anſtruther is the patron.

Population.—In 1744, the number was 1000; in 1764, it was 900; at preſent, it is ſuppoſed rather above 1000. The average of births 36; deaths 24.

Port, Shipping, &c.—In 1710, Anſtruther, which formerly was a creek of the cuſtomhouſe of Kirkcaldy, was made a port, and a cuſtomhouſe eſtabliſhed.

In 1753, a new key was built; and to defray the expence an act of Parliament was procured, laying a tax of two pennies Scots upon every pint of ale brewed or ſold in the burgh. For ſome years of late the produce has not been more than a third of what it was at the beginning.

In 1768, the tonnage belonging to Anſtruther Eaſter was 80 ton; it is now 1400.

Ship-building has been carried on for ſome years to a conſiderable extent.—There is a thread-manufacture.

Poor.—The poor are ſupported by the weekly collections; beſides which the ſhipmaſters have a large fund, from which they are able to make a decent proviſion for the widows and orphans of their Society. The trades have a fund for their poor.

Longevity.—In 1761, Robert Arnot, blackſmith, died, aged 99 years and ſome months; Mr James Nairne, late miniſter, 92; his ſon, the preſent incumbent, is 84.

NUM-

NUMBER XIII.

UNITED PARISHES OF HOY AND GRÆMSAY,

(COUNTY OF ORKNEY, SYNOD OF KIRKWALL, AND PRESBYTERY OF CAIRSTONS).

By the Rev. Mr ROBERT SANDS.

THE PARISH OF HOY

DOES not furniſh much room for Statiſtical inveſtigation, and the few obſervations which occur reſpecting it may be comprehended within narrow bounds. The origin of its name cannot now be aſcertained.

Situation and Extent.—The pariſh is ſituated in the county of Orkney, Synod of Kirkwall, and Preſbytery of Cairſtons. It is of a triangular form, ſurrounded by the pariſhes of Walls to the ſouth ſide; the pariſhes of Orphir, Stennis, and Stromneſs, upon the eaſt and north ſide; and the

the Atlantic Ocean to the weſtward. The pariſh from N. W. to S. E. is about 9 or 10 miles long, and in general is about 6 miles broad. It may be called a very hilly or mountainous diſtrict. One of theſe hills in particular being ſo ſteep in many places of it, is almoſt inacceſſible on account of rocks of an uncommon ſize. Some ſtrangers with their mathematical inſtruments have computed the height of it, from the water's edge to the top, an Engliſh mile. There is neither paſture nor heath grows upon it, and it only ſerves as a fine mark for mariners or ſeafaring people to bring them into a ſafe harbour.

Soil and Climate.—The land or arable ground in this place is generally wet and ſpongy; the ſoil light, and better calculated for graſs than for grain. The air is healthy, and the people generally long-lived; one perſon, in particular, who had reſided in the pariſh from his youth, died ſome years ago at the advanced age of 100.

Sheep.—The principal circumſtance for which this pariſh is remarkable is their ſheep, if they were properly taken care of as in other countries to the ſouthward; but no arguments will prevail with the country people of the pariſh to take better care of them, except their landlords would interpoſe their authority, which they will not. The ſheep all run wild in theſe mountains, and are never got until they run them down with their dogs, and by that means they are much abuſed. Some of theſe ſheep will run with three or four years wool upon them, and when hounded by their dogs, they run generally to the rocks, where there is no poſſibility of acceſs to them. Many of their young lambs are devoured, and picked up by eagles and other birds of prey, which are very numerous in this place; and in the winter-ſeaſon, when the ſheep come down to the ſea-ſide

to feed upon ſea-weeds or ware, they are often carried away by the high tides that commonly take place in ſtormy weather. As to the number of their ſheep, it would be no eaſy matter to aſcertain, as the people are at great care and pains to conceal it; but by a general calculation they may be computed at 1000 or 1200.

Productions.—The quantity of grain produced here is very inconſiderable, and their farms are ſo very ſmall, that when they have paid their rents to their landlords, which are collected commonly in kind, they have but a very ſcanty ſubſiſtence to ſupport themſelves and families, and are often reduced to buying of meal for their families. The only grain they ſow is black oats and bear. The planting of potatoes, which of late has taken place among them, may in time be a great advantage.

Rent of the Pariſh.—The whole rent of this pariſh does not exceed L. 250 Sterling; and as the whole pariſh was feued off the biſhoprick in former times, and that at the higheſt rate then paid, the whole rent paid to the proprietors muſt be very ſmall. There are four heritors in the pariſh, and only one of them reſiding in it.

State of the Church, &c.—The whole of the church about nine years ago fell down of itſelf before the heritors would offer to make any reparation on it, and at laſt they rebuilt it, and that in a very ſlight manner, ſo that it is not above half finiſhed. The preſent incumbent was ſettled as miniſter in April 1742; he was married, and had a very large family of children, once to the number of 22, but are now reduced to 4 ſons and 2 daughters. The ſtipend amounts to 92 meils of malt, and 6 barrels of greaſe butter. The prices of theſe articles are very precarious,

and

and at an average do not exceed betwixt L. 60 and L. 70 Sterling, beſides a ſmall glebe not exceeding L. 3 rent yearly. The manſe is in a very ruinous condition, though built ſince the incumbency of the preſent miniſter, and that of the very worſt materials that could poſſibly be got, ſo that now it is dangerous to walk upon the floors, as the whole of them are worm-eaten.

Population.—The population in 1755 was 520; of late it has conſiderably diminiſhed. The inhabitants may now amount to 250. The number of burials do not exceed 3 or 4 each year; the births are from 6 to 8. There is no village in the pariſh.

Antiquities.—There are few antiquities in this pariſh worth mentioning; only there is a large ſtone, called the Dwarf Stone, which meaſures 32 feet in length, 16½ broad, 7 feet 5 inches in height, hollowed in the inſide, and divided into three different apartments; in one end there is a bed, 5 feet 8 inches long, and 2 feet broad; and in the other end a ſmall room, and in the middle part an area, where there has been a fire-place, and a hole at the top to let out the ſmoke. There are ſeveral beautiful glens among the hills, ſurrounded with very high rocks, and at the foot of theſe rocks a fine plain of graſs, grown level as a bowling-green, where there are the fineſt echoes reverberating from one rock to another every ſyllable you expreſs for ſome minutes; there is alſo in this pariſh a proſpect of one of the richeſt lead mines that has been known. Mr Walter Stewart, a late proprietor of ſaid place, employed a miner, a very ſkilful man in his buſineſs, who ſtruck up about a ton weight of the ore, which Mr Stewart carried to Leith, and gave to Dr Black, Profeſſor of Chemiſtry, who made an aſſay of it; and his report was, that beſides

ſides the lead, he could extract 46 ounces of ſilver out of each ton of ore.

Fuel.—The principal diſadvantage, notwithſtanding the great and high mountains we have in this pariſh, is the ſcarcity of fuel, many of the inhabitants being obliged to go a great way out of the pariſh among theſe hills, to cut, win, and carry their peats down to the ſea-ſhores, where next they are obliged to carry them in their boats by water to a very great diſtance. The preſent incumbent has been obliged to carry his peats by water during all the years of his incumbency for 5 or 6 miles, which is attended with a great expence upon ſo ſmall a ſtipend.

Prices of Proviſions.—The prices of vivers in this pariſh, and in the neighbourhood, has turned out ſo high, even to triple value of moſt articles more than it was at the preſent incumbent's being ſettled here, owing chiefly to its being in the neighbourhood of Stromneſs, where there is a fine harbour, and much frequented by ſhipping, ſo that when come off a long voyage, and out of proviſion, the ſmall petty merchants in Stromneſs come over here, and buy up ſheep, hogs, and cattle at any price, as they are ſure to make conſiderable profits by the hands of theſe ſtrangers.

THE PARISH OF GRÆMSAY

Is but a very ſmall iſland, a mile and an half in length, and a mile in breadth, conſiſting of 35 or 36 families, in very ſmall farms, where the cure was uſed to be ſerved by the miniſter of Hoy every third Sabbath; but the ſmall kirk or meeting-place there threatened to fall down of it-

ſelf, the miniſter applied to the Preſbytery for a viſitation, and by the oaths of ſufficient workmen of each craft, got it declared ruinous, and it ſtill continues ſo, which obliged the miniſter to leave the place, after he had ſerved 36 years and upwards. It is alſo obſervable, and very ſingular, that it pays neither ſtipend, nor has any glebe.

Population.—The population of the pariſh is much the ſame as it was 50 years ago. Its inhabitants may now amount to about 160; the number of burials do not exceed 3 or 4 each year; the births about 8 or 10 yearly. There is no village in the iſland.

Fuel.—The principal diſadvantage under which this pariſh labours, is the ſcarcity of fuel. The common people burn turf or peat, which they are obliged to carry from Hoy and other places.

Schools.—There are no ſchools in either of the pariſhes of Hoy or Græmſay, owing to the proprietors, who cannot be prevailed upon to ſettle a parochial ſchool, and for that reaſon, the Society for propagating Chriſtian Knowledge have for ſome years paſt withdrawn their charity ſchools; and notwithſtanding the miniſter of the place applied to the commiſſioners of the county to interpoſe their authority, which he did by petition, and under form of inſtrument above 30 years ago, yet to this day he never got any deliverance upon it; and now the miniſter, being reduced by old age and infirmities, is not in condition to go about ſuch matters.

Rent.—The land-rent of the iſland is computed at L. 100 Sterling a-year, beſides caſualties equal to one half more.

NUM.

NUMBER XIV.

PARISH OF WESTRAY,

(County and Synod of Orkney, Presbytery of North Isles.)

By the Rev. Mr James Izat, *Miniſter.*

Situation, Extent, &c.

THE pariſh of Weſtray comprehends in it the iſlands of Weſtray and Papa Weſtray; theſe iſlands are ſituated towards the N. and lie in the extremity of the country on that ſide. Weſtray, the largeſt, is diſtant from Kirkwall, the borough town, about the ſpace of 20 miles. The leſſer iſland, Papa Weſtray, lying to the N. of Weſtray, will be diſtant from Kirkwall 24 miles. The iſland of Weſtray is of an irregular form, being indented with bays and jutting out points of land. This iſland lies in a direction from E. to W. being in length between 9 and 10 miles Engliſh; towards the weſt end, it ſtretches out into a conſiderable breadth, being about 6 Engliſh miles over in that part; there is likewiſe a ridge of hills on the weſtern extremity of this iſland, of a conſiderable height, called

called Fitty and Gallo, ſtretching from S. to N. in a line of between 3 and 4 miles. This iſland towards the E. and a little removed from Fitty and Gallo hills, is about 2 Engliſh miles over; but about the middle ſpace of the iſland, the breadth is ſcarcely an Engliſh mile over. From gueſs of the eye, there does not appear to be above 1-8th part of the ſurface of this iſland under cultivation.

The iſland of Papa Weſtray, lies on the north ſide of Weſtray, and is ſeparated from it by a ſound, or ferry, between 2 and 3 miles over. The length of this iſland is between 3 and 4 Engliſh miles, of an oval form, and lies in a direction from N. to S. being about an Engliſh mile in breadth in moſt places. This is a very fertile iſland, containing ſome of the beſt paſture and arable lands in the whole country; and, to appearance, there is a greater proportion of this iſland under cultivation than that of the iſland of Weſtray.

Agriculture, &c.—Agriculture in this pariſh, as well as in the other parts of the county of Orkney, is carried on in the ſame way that it has been done for many years paſt. The fields are all open, without incloſures, neither are there any green crops raiſed here, ſuch as hay, turnip, *&c.*; the people here now begin to plant potatoes, and this they do to advantage, both with reſpect to produce, and the improvement of the ground. There is one gentleman in the iſland of Weſtray, who ſows a conſiderable quantity of peaſe yearly, both of the white and gray kind; the only produce is ſtraw for his horſes, the grain ſeldom or ever comes to any perfection. The farmer here generally uſes a plough with one ſtilt, much in the form of the old Roman plough. The only rotation of crops is ſmall grey oats and bear, commonly called big; the time of ſowing the oats

oats is in the month of March, and ſometimes they ſow this grain in the end of February, if the ſeaſon is favourable. The only manure here is ſea-weed or ware, with the help of what houſe-dung they can produce. The ſea-weed is no doubt a very rich and productive manure, but is of little uſe to the ground but for the preſent crop. This they lay on the fields which had produced oats the preceding ſeaſon, and this is done immediately after harveſt, and during the winter, as often as the wind and tides bring this manure aſhore. In the ſpring ſeaſon, after the oats are ſown, the farmer gives the *wared* land one ploughing, which they call their fallow. Sometimes, when the ware does not come aſhore in the winter ſeaſon, it comes at the time of their fallow, which obliges the farmer to put it on the land immediately from the ſtrand. This manure does not anſwer ſo well for moſt ſoils as the winter ware, yet it generally anſwers pretty well. When the ware here is got in the proper ſeaſon, it is carried up from the ſtrand, and laid in heaps on the banks, and there it is allowed to lie till it acquires a conſiderable degree of heat or fermentation; this is reckoned a good preparation for this kind of manure, and in this way is moſt productive. There is a variety of ſoils in this pariſh, and they differ very much from one another in the ſame corner. There is a good deal of the land compoſed of a rich black mould; ſome again conſiſting of black mould with a mixture of ſand; in other parts, clay mixed with ſand; in ſome places, black mould mixed with peat moſs; and finally, there is much land conſiſting of nothing but pure ſand; when plenty of good ware is laid on ſuch ſoil as this, it will yield a tolerable crop. The ground here is generally of a free and light nature, and cannot bear much labouring. The farmer gives the bear land one ploughing only after the fallow, at the time he ſows the ſeed, the ſoil being ſo light and free, it requires

requires very little of the harrow, which inſtrument is generally made with wooden teeth. In ſome places, it is true, the better and more ſubſtantial farmers, and where the ſoil is ſtronger, begin now to uſe the iron-teethed harrow. However, it may be depended upon as a certain fact, that agriculture will only be a ſecondary conſideration in this country, while kelp continues to ſell at any tolerable price; and in this the landholders cannot be blamed, as the kelp yields them ready and certain profits. Many of the lands in Orkney, which are burdened with high ſuperiorities, without this valuable article of kelp, would have long ago been in the hands of the ſuperior.

Churches, &c.—There are three churches or places of worſhip in this pariſh, two in the iſland of Weſtray, one of which is called St Mary's, and the other Croſs Kirk; St Mary's kirk is diſtant from the manſe above 4 Engliſh miles; the other, Croſs Kirk, is diſtant 3 miles, and the kirk or place of worſhip in the iſland of Papa Weſtray, is diſtant from the manſe a ſpace of between 8 and 9 Engliſh miles. The miniſter preaches in theſe different parts of worſhip by rotation, at leaſt when the weather permits him to paſs the ferry to Papa Weſtray. It muſt appear pretty ſingular, that all theſe places of worſhip are placed at ſuch a diſtance from the manſe; the ſpace between the manſe and the place of worſhip in the iſland of Papa Weſtray, is a journey which can ſcarcely be accompliſhed in the ſpace of two hours.

This charge might have been rendered more commodious for the miniſter, and centrical for the people, by removing the manſe from its preſent ſituation. But though the preſent incumbent petitioned the heritors for this purpoſe, they would not agree to any propoſal of this kind. The preſent incumbent could not afford to lay out money

in

in a proceſs of this kind, without public aid, by which he has hitherto not profited; and therefore judged it more eligible for himſelf to put up with his preſent ſituation, than involve himſelf in a law-ſuit, which might be attended with an expence far above his circumſtances to bear. It may almoſt indeed be looked upon as a problem why the manſe ſhould be placed at ſuch a diſtance from the places of worſhip. In anſwer to this, prior to, and during the incumbency of Mr William Blaw, who was ordained to this charge ſome time after the Revolution, there was one of the places of worſhip only one mile diſtant from the manſe. But this houſe was ſuffered to go to ruin in the time of Mr Blaw's incumbency, and was never after repaired or rebuilt to any of the preſent incumbent's two predeceſſors. For a conſiderable time there was only one place of worſhip in the iſland of Weſtray, and this too becoming ruinous in the laſt incumbent's time, the heritors at laſt thought of building a centrical church for the whole iſland; but however beneficial to the heritors, miniſter, and people, this ſcheme was entirely dropped, and upon this the heritors reſolved to have two places of worſhip as formerly, to the great inconveniency both of the miniſter and people.

Stipend.—State of the miniſter's ſtipend in Weſtray and Papa Weſtray, at the converſion of L. 2 Scots *per* miel of bear, on the bear pundler of Orkney, L. 4 Scots *per* miel of malt, and L. 7, 4 s. Scots *per* miel of oat-meal, and L. 30 Scots *per* barrel of butter:

To 36 miels two ſettins of bear, and in ſmall parcels, in the name of vicarage bear teind, -	L.	73	0	0
To 4 miels 2 ſettins teind malt, -		16	13	4
To 4 miels teind oat-meal, -		28	16	0
Carried over,	L.	118	9	4

Brought over,	L. 118	9	4
To 2 barrels and a half teind butter,	75	0	0
To ſheep teind, computed to be -	33	0	0
To lamb teind, - -	18	7	0
To calf teind, - - -	3	12	0
To money ſtipend, - - -	300	0	0
	L. 548	8	4

This is the amount of the ſtipend of Weſtray, as given in by the preſent incumbent's predeceſſor to the Court of Seſſion, as far back as the year 1773, when he commenced a proceſs of augmentation againſt the heritors of Weſtray; and in the month of Auguſt 1777, he obtained from the Court a decreet of modification, decerning and ordaining the ſtipend of Weſtray and Papa Weſtray to have been for crop and year of God 1773, ſince ſyne and in time coming, 36 miels 3 ſettins of bear, 4 miels 2 ſettins of malt, 4 meils oat-meal, and 2½ barrels of butter, with L. 551 : 17 : 4 Scots, and L. 33 : 6 : 8 Scots, for furniſhing the communion-elements. It appears, therefore, by this ſtate, that the ſtipend of Weſtray, by the above decree of modification, is L. 778 : 13 : 4 Scots, and reckoning along with this the value of the glebes, and a little kelp burnt by the miniſter, the ſtipend of Weſtray may be about L. 70 Sterling *communibus annis*. But after all this account of ſtipend, it muſt be underſtood, that there is no decreet of locality paſt on the decreet of modification, in which caſe, all this augmentation, which amounts to L. 19 : 3 : 9 Sterling *per annum*, remains in the heritors hands, ten years of which belong to the preſent incumbent, and the other ten years augmentation to the laſt incumbent's heirs. From the above account, the ſtipend of Weſtray is in a very ruinous dilapidated ſtate at preſent, nor will it be eaſy for the preſent

ſent incumbent to get the ſtipend put upon a better footing, without the aſſiſtance of the public funds of the Church.

Miniſters Names, who in ſucceſſion have filled the charge in the pariſh of Weſtray ſince the Revolution.—Mr William Blaw, the firſt ſettled here after that period, there is no record of the date of his ſettlement or death. Mr Andrew Cowan, ſettled 27th June 1735, died 28th July 1760. Mr Nicol Spence, ſettled 22d July 1761, died 25th April 1783: And Mr James Izat, ſettled 15th April 1784.

Poor.—The number of poor on the roll in the iſlands of Weſtray and Papa Weſtray are 60 and upwards, for the ſupport of which the money ariſing from collections, fines, *&c.* is by no means adequate. All the money collected in this way, good and bad, does not exceed L. 9 Sterling yearly, from which muſt be deducted one third part at leaſt for bad copper, and out of the remaining ſmall ſum, the precentor and kirk-officer are paid their reſpective ſalaries. It may be a ſubject of enquiry then, by what means are ſuch a numerous poor ſupported? Surely, at this rate, one ſhould think that they muſt be in a very deplorable condition. They are ſupplied from the families who are in any kind of tolerable circumſtances. Such of the poor who are able to come out, go from houſe to houſe; thoſe again who are confined by old age, infirmity, or diſtreſs of any kind, employ ſome friend, neighbour, or acquaintance, to aſk alms for them; but to ſuch as have no body to procure any thing for them in this way, the neceſſaries of life are ſent to their own houſes. It is a conſideration, indeed, which is very much to the credit and honour of this place, that by ſuch a mode the poor are tolerably provided for; at the ſame time, it is no doubt a very conſiderable burden on the inhabitants.

After all, the miniſter of Weſtray is very ſenſible, that if any plan could be adopted here for eſtabliſhing a poors rate, this would lay the burden of the poor more equally on the inhabitants of any pariſh, and more eſpecially on the rich landholders, who are unqueſtionably obliged to aſſeſs themſelves for the ſupport of the poor, when the public funds of a pariſh are inſufficient for this purpoſe.

Schools, &c.—With regard to the ſtate of this pariſh as to a ſchool or ſchools for the education of youth, and their inſtruction in Chriſtian knowledge, it has been in a very deſtitute condition for many years paſt. In the year 1792, there was a teacher firſt ſent from the Society for Propagating Chriſtian Knowledge; but he, upon obtaining a better place in his own country, *viz* the county of Moray, left this pariſh a little before Whitſunday laſt. By another application to the Society for the continuance of their bounty, there is ſome proſpect of a ſchool being again eſtabliſhed in this place, upon the ſame bounty, at Whitſunday firſt. It muſt naturally occur to every thinking and well-diſpoſed mind, that the numerous youth in this place muſt be in a very deſtitute condition for want of education, when they grow up to men and womens eſtate without being taught to read. In a liſt of the number of ſouls, which was accurately taken up in this pariſh two years ago, the number of children at ten years and under amounted to 360. What is to be expected from children thus trained up in ignorance, and deprived of the means of religious knowledge in their youth? It is too obvious to make any comment upon it. This is an evil which will not be eaſily removed, without the interpoſition of public aid, as many of the inhabitants are in very poor and indigent circumſtances.

Population.

Population, &c.—According to Dr Webſter, the number of ſouls in 1755 was 1290. The number at preſent (1793) in the pariſh of Weſtray, comprehending the iſlands of Weſtray, and Papa Weſtray, with the proportion of males and females, and number of houſes, are as follow:

Houſes.	Males.	Females.	Total.
205	759	870	1629

Births and Baptiſms within the pariſh of Weſtray, ſince the 15th April 1784:

Year.	Male.	Female.	Total.
1784,	14	16	30
1785,	19	10	29
1786,	13	21	34
1787,	21	14	35
1788,	23	12	35
1789,	21	14	35
1790,	16	17	33
1791,	19	16	35
1792,	17	14	31
1793,	28	27	55
	191	161	352

Marriages in the pariſh of Weſtray ſince the 9th May 1784:

Year.	Marriages.	Year.	Marriages.
1784,	4	Brought over,	49
1785,	4	1790,	15
1786,	11	1791,	4
1787,	4	1792,	18
1788,	14	1793,	16
1789,	12		
	—	Total,	102
Carried over,	49		

Rental

Rental of the Island of Westray, &c.

Paid to the heritors of real rent,	L. 305	0	0
To rent, feus, and teind paid to Sir Thomas Dundas, the superior,	180	0	0
Real rent to the proprietor of the island of Papa Westray,	70	0	0
To Sir Thomas Dundas, feu and teind,	48	0	0
Total,	L. 603	0	0

Quantity of kelp burnt yearly in Westray,	280	tons.
In the island of Papa Westray,	70	
Total,	350	tons.

Number of ploughs in the island of Westray, one half with four horses, the other half with three,	144
Ploughs in Papa Westray,	24
Total,	168

Number of oxen-carts in Westray, with two oxen in the cart, employed in manuring the land, &c.	45
In Papa Westray,	5
Total	50

Number of boats, horses, horned cattle, sheep, and swine in parish of Westray:

Boats,	82	Sheep,	1843
Horses,	825	Swine,	417
Horned cattle	1074		

It will be necessary to observe under this article, that the boats mentioned in the above list are not properly fishing-boats. There are none in this parish who earn their bread

bread by fiſhing. It is true, theſe boats ſometimes go to ſea for the purpoſe of fiſhing cod, cooths, and tibrics, which are the ſmall or young cooths. All the fiſh the people take in this way are conſumed in their own families; and all the fiſh they can catch are but a ſmall pittance for their ſupport. Fiſhing on this coaſt would be a very precarious buſineſs; there has ſcarcely been taken here, for years paſt, fiſh of any kind. The above boats are neceſſarily kept by the people for paſſing ferries, and thereby tranſporting hither and thither whatever the inhabitants of theſe iſlands have occaſion for.

Fiſhery, &c.—There is cod-fiſhing, though very inconſiderable, both on the ſouth and north ſide of Weſtray; but the north ſea is by far the beſt fiſhing ground, where, in ſome particular ſeaſons, there has been both cod and ling taken, though not for years paſt, in any conſiderable quantities.

Cooths are a ſpecies of fiſh, which in this country they call grey fiſh. The proper ſeaſon for taking theſe fiſh commences about the middle of June, and continues till the month of Auguſt, and ſometimes longer, if the weather be favourable.

The time of fiſhing the young cooths or tibricks, begins about the middle of Auguſt, and continues through the winter, if the ſeaſon is favourable.

There is another ſpecies of fiſh caught here, called the dog-fiſh, about the ſize of a middling cod, with a large head; they are but a coarſe kind of fiſh; what renders them valuable is, that their livers yield a goodly quantity of the very beſt oil. The ſeaſon for catching theſe fiſh is the ſame with that of the cooths.

With regard to the rapidity of the tides, currents, and foundings among the iſlands, the beſt information on this head

head is to be got from Mr Murdoch Mackenzie's draughts, where all theſe particulars are laid down in the moſt accurate manner.

Mills.—In Weſtray there are three water-mills and one wind-mill. In Papa Weſtray, one water-mill.

Number of Tradeſmen of different kinds in the Pariſh of Weſtray.

Weavers	-	23	Boatbuilders,		5
Shoemakers*,	-	5	Blackſmiths,	-	2
Tailors,	-	5	Merchants,	-	4
Wrights,	-	3	In all,	-	47

Shipping, &c.—Two ſloops of between 70 and 80 tons burden belong to the iſland of Weſtray. Theſe veſſels for the moſt part are employed in carrying kelp to the market.

On the N. and W. of the iſland of Weſtray, there is one good ſecure harbour, called Pyrawall; this harbour can admit veſſels only of a ſmall burden.

Antiquities.—At the head of the bay which forms the harbour ſtands a ſtately Gothic ruin, called the caſtle of Noltland, part of which has never been finiſhed. This houſe is built at a ſmall diſtance from the ſhore, and ſtands on an eminence gently declining towards the ſea. The face of the ground between this ruin and the ſea is a beautiful green, covered with the richeſt paſture in the ſummer ſeaſon.

* Perhaps it may appear pretty odd that the liſt of ſhoemakers is ſo ſmall, and that there is no mention of coopers. The reaſon is this, that many in the pariſh can make ſhoes of a coarſer kind, yet they do not live by this buſineſs; ſo in like manner there are ſeverals, who can work in the cooper buſineſs, though none do it ſolely for their ſubſiſtence.

ſeaſon. There is a traditionary account here, that this houſe was intended as a place of retreat for Mary Queen of Scots and Bothwell from the then prevailing diſturbances; but upon Mary and Bothwell's defeat, the caſtle of Noltland, and ſome adjoining lands, were granted to a gentleman of the name of Balfour, who put the Balfour's arms on this houſe. This gentleman was either a brother, or a near relation of a Sir James Balfour, who was Governor of the Caſtle of Edinburgh at that time. Though this caſtle of Noltland, and the adjoining lands, are now the property of another family, yet Mr John Balfour of Trenaby, the deſcendent and repreſentative of the above proprietors of Noltland, has ſtill a conſiderable property in Weſtray.

In ſeveral places along the ſhores of the iſland of Weſtray you meet with graves, which are certainly of a very ancient date. On the north-weſt ſhore of this iſland, and not far from the houſe of Trenaby, ſome of theſe graves were opened a few years ago, and among the aſhes were found one or two ſhort ſabres or ſwords, which were perfectly entire as to the ſhape, though much conſumed with ruſt. There was alſo found at the ſame time, in one of theſe graves, a ſmall drinking veſſel, though it could not be eaſily diſtinguiſhed of what materials it was made. When or how theſe bodies came to be lodged in this place, at ſuch a diſtance from the common place of interment, is not eaſy to conjecture. But when ſpeaking of theſe things, the miniſter of Weſtray muſt take notice, that there are two remarkable graves by the ſea-ſhore, at half an Engliſh mile from the manſe. The one of theſe graves is large, the other of a ſmall ſize; the latter, which is at ſome diſtance from the larger grave, is placed within a ſmall circle of ſtones, which is equal with the ſurface of the grave. The poſition of theſe graves is from N. to S. with four grey ſtones ſet on edge, and placed at equal diſtances from one another,

another, and in a croſs direction from the one end of the grave to the other. Theſe graves are certainly of very great antiquity, and perfectly agree with Oſſian and Fingal's deſcription; which, as above, is four grey ſtones placed on edge and acroſs the grave from head to foot, and at equal diſtances from one another. That theſe places are ſepulchres of the dead, there can be no doubt; the miniſter of Weſtray ſaw on this ſame ground (which conſiſts entirely of ſand) different human bones, and particularly a ſkull, pretty entire.

Fuel.—There is only one peat moſs in the iſland of Weſtray, and none other in the pariſh; this is the excluſive property of one heritor, who a few years ago has prohibited almoſt all the inhabitants from the benefit of this moſs, excepting his own tenants. Neither can this neceſſary article be procured from any of the neighbouring iſlands, the proprietors there being equally tenacious of their property, and, at the ſame time, under ſome apprehenſions of theſe moſſes wearing out, neither money nor intereſt can prevail with them to ſerve the inhabitants of Weſtray with an article ſo much needed. This is a moſt diſtreſſing conſideration to a great number of the inhabitants of Weſtray; and indeed it appears ſimply impoſſible for a great many of theſe to ſubſiſt, unleſs a ſupply of coal be henceforth imported.

NUMBER XV.

PARISH OF GLENELG,

(County of Inverness, Synod of Glenelg, and Presbytery of Lochcarron),

By the Rev. Mr Colin Maciver, *Miniſter.*

Origin of the Name.

GLENELG, the ancient and modern name, is ſuppoſed to be made up of the Gaelic words, *glen*, ſignifying a valey, and *ſeilg*, hunting; or *glen*, a valley, and *elid*, a roe.

Situation, Extent, and Surface.—The pariſh lies in the County of Inverneſs, Synod to which it gives its name, and preſbytery of Lochcarron. It is divided into three diſtricts: 1*ſt*, Glenelg, where the church and manſe are ſituated, the property of Colonel Macleod of Macleod; 2*d*, Knowdort, ſeparated from Glenelg by an arm of the ſea called Lochurn, the property of Macdonells of Glengarry and Scothouſe; 3*d*, North-morror, ſeparated from Know-

dort by another arm of the ſea, called Lochneavis, the property of the family of Lovat. The pariſh may be ſuppoſed to extend from N. to S. about 20 miles, and the ſame number of miles from E. to W. It is bounded on the N. E. and E. by the pariſh of Glenſheal, county of Roſs, a ridge of hills making the diviſion; on the S. E. and S. by the out-ſkirts of the countries of Glengarry and Lochaber; on the S. W. by the freſh water lake called Loch-morror, this lake dividing the pariſh of Ardnumorechuan from that of Glenelg; and on the N. W. by the navigable and much frequented ſound that ſeparates the iſland of Sky from the continent of Great Britain.

In the diſtrict of Glenelg there are two vallies, through each of which a river runs; the inhabitants reſide in ſeparate villages on each ſide of the rivers; their arable land extending along the banks, and on the declivity of the hills; ſome of them alſo dwell on Lochurn-ſide. In this diſtrict the ſoil is good; part of a deep black loam, and part of a ſandy gravel, formerly the bed of the rivers, yielding crops of potatoes and oats, and the hills afford good paſture for cattle. In Knowdort the inhabitants dwell in villages bordering on the ſea, along the ſides of Lochurn and Lochneavis; here the ſoil is in general light, yielding crops of barley, oats, and potatoes. The hills, though high, are moſtly green to the top, and afford excellent paſture for all kinds of cattle. North-morror is rocky and mountainous, moſtly adapted for cattle.

Air and Climate.—The air is moiſt, the rains being frequent, as the wind moſtly blows from the S. and W.; notwithſtanding, the people are healthy. The conſtant but moderate exerciſe, which is neceſſary for herding the cattle, and the ſea-air enjoyed during the fiſhing-ſeaſons, are favourable to health. There are at preſent in the diſtrict

of

of Glenelg 63 persons from the age of 70 to 80 and upwards, as may be seen from the following state of the population, as ascertained in the year 1793.

Population, &c.

Males,	635	Weavers and weaveresses,	25
Females,	651	Tailors,	8
Total inhabitants,	1286	Clergyman,	1
Supposed to emigrate from the year 1770 to 1774,	160	Schoolmasters,	2
Emigrated in 1785,	14	Merchant,	1
Ditto in 1787,	10	Millers,	2
Ditto in 1793,	130	Innkeeper,	1
Ann. average of births,	38	In the district of Knowdort.	
Ditto of marriages,	12	Protestants,	150
Heads of families,	178	Protestant missionary,	1
Under 10 years old,	401	Papists,	850
Between 10 and 20,	232	Priest,	1
—— 20 and 50,	456	Surgeon,	1
—— 50 and 70,	134	Emigrated from Knowdort from the year 1770 to 1793,	800
From 70 and upwards,	63	Papists in North-morror,	460
Smiths,	2	Priest,	1
Wrights,	2		

Total inhabitants in Glenelg,	1286
Ditto in Knowdort,	1000
Ditto in North-morror,	460
Inhabitants of the whole parish,	2746
Emigrated at different periods from Glenelg, (supposed)	324
Ditto from Knowdort,	800
The return to Dr Webster,	1816

Seed-

Seed-time and Harveſt.—The oats are commonly ſown in the latter end of March and beginning of April; immediately thereafter the potatoes are planted, and then the barley. The hay-harveſt commences the latter end of July and beginning of Auguſt, moſtly raiſed from meadow ground; the barley and oats are cut down in September and October; but owing to the deluges of rain that too often fall about this ſeaſon of the year, the hay as well as other crops are often not ſecured till November. Grazing ſeems to be the only kind of farming for which this country is adapted; from neceſſity, and not choice, agriculture is carried on; the frequent rains, together with the inundations of the rivers, prove ſo deſtructive as to render the crops ſometimes inſipid and uſeleſs; but the price of meal, which is conſiderably advanced ſince the late corn-bill paſſed in Parliament, will ſtill urge them to continue their old method of farming with all its diſadvantages, it being impoſſible to purchaſe the quantity required at ſuch exorbitant prices. In the moſt favourable ſeaſons, the crops raiſed are barely ſufficient for the maintenance of their families during three-fourths of the year; and in ſummer, the ſupplies from other markets are always ſcanty and precarious, owing to the tedious navigation from the eaſt of Scotland, and the impracticability of land-carriage over a hilly diſtrict, more than 50 computed miles in length.

Black Cattle and Sheep.—The cows in this pariſh are of a good kind, well ſhaped and piled, and being ſeldom houſed, very hardy; and thoſe reared on the larger farms are perhaps equal to moſt ſtocks on the weſt coaſt, particular attention being paid by the farmers in keeping handſome and proper bulls; but they juſtly complain, that the prices fetched are not equal to the expence and pains taken in rearing them: ſuch cattle, when ſold in parcels, give from

L. 3, 10 s. to L. 4 Sterling; and thoſe ſold by the lower claſs of tenants fetch from two to three guineas each. The eſtate of Scothouſe, as alſo a great part of Glengarry's property, together with one farm on Macleod's eſtate, are moſtly laid out in ſheep-walks; the ſheep are of the black-faced kind, and are thought to be good, as the wedders of three years old, reared on two of the farms, have hitherto given from 15 s. to 16 s. each at an average. The white wool ſells from 6 s. to 8 s. and the tared wool from 4 s. to 6 s. the ſtone. The quantity ſold is ſuppoſed to be upwards of 1500 ſtones, Greenock, Dumbarton, and Liverpool, being the ports to which it is carried, and ſome of it alſo diſpoſed of to the country people. Emigration is thought to be owing in a great meaſure to the introduction of ſheep, as one man often rents a farm where formerly many families lived comfortably; and if the rage for this mode of farming goes on with the ſame rapidity it has done for ſome years back, it is to be apprehended emigration will ſtill increaſe. But this is not ſolely the cauſe; the high rents demanded by landlords, the increaſe of population, and the flattering accounts received from their friends in America, do alſo contribute to the evil.

Fiſh.—Skate, ling, and cod are to be got along the coaſt of the pariſh, but ſythe or pollock is caught in the greateſt abundance, which in ſummer is chiefly the ſupport of the poor people. The herring-fiſhing deſerves to be particularly mentioned, as in Lochurn they make their appearance ſo early as July, and continue from that period to the middle of autumn. Here the buſſes from the frith of Clyde commonly aſſemble firſt, beſides a vaſt number of boats, which croud together from the neighbouring pariſhes and iſles adjacent. It is computed for ſome years back 30,000 barrels have been annually caught in this loch; but the want of

ſalt

ſalt prevents the natives from turning to advantage this bounty of Providence, which from their local ſituation they might otherwiſe do; at preſent, they are content with ſiſhing a barrel or two to help the maintenance of their families. Certainly it muſt be an impolitic law that impoſes ſo high a duty on one of the moſt neceſſary articles of conſumption in life.

Birds, and wild Animals.—The migratory birds are, the ſwallow, the cuckoo, the field-fare, and wood-cock. The birds of prey are the eagle, the raven, and grey crow, with three ſpecies of the hawk, and two of the kite. The game birds are, the tarmargan, grouſe, black-cock, ſnipe, heath-hen, with a few partridge. The aquatic birds are ſuch as are common on the weſt coaſt. The deer and roe ſtill frequent the hills and woods on Lochurn-ſide; the mountain hare, together with the fox, the badger, and weaſel, are natives of this country; and the amphibious animals are the ſeal and otter.

Tides.—The tides run very ſtrong, both in Lochurn and Lochneavis; but the moſt remarkable current in this pariſh, or perhaps in all the weſt coaſt, is to be ſeen at *Kylerea*, the name of the ſound that ſeparates Sky from the main land; at ſpring-tides it runs ſo rapidly as to render it impoſſible for any veſſel to paſs through with a freſh breeze, and the wind never ſo favourable. Mackenzie, in his chart, reckons its velocity equal to nine notes an hour. Over this ſound the black cattle annually driven to market from Sky, and part of the Long-iſland are made to ſwim; and though the current is ſo very ſtrong, yet few accidents happen. The number cannot be exactly aſcertained, but in general they may be reckoned about 2000.

Antiquities.

Antiquities.—There have been many caſtles or round towers in this pariſh, two of which are yet pretty entire, and are much viſited by travellers. There are various opinions reſpecting the uſe they were intended for; but the one given by the late learned Dr Macpherſon of Slate, in his Antiquities of Scotland, ſeems to be the moſt probable. There is alſo ſituated on an eminence above the manſe the remains of an old fortification, of which Mr Pennant takes notice in his Tour; beſides, there is ſtill to be ſeen on the top of a rock, not far from the ſea, the foundation of an old building made up of ſtone and lime, and yet there is no tradition concerning it. There are ſome tumuli or barrows; one of them being opened up not many years ago, there was found in it an urn, containing as is ſuppoſed the aſhes of ſome ancient warrior.

Barracks.—In the year 1722, ſhortly after the battle of Glenſheal, Government thought it neceſſary to erect a ſmall fortification on the weſt coaſt, and pitched on a ſpot of ground in this pariſh as a proper ſituation, being in the direct line from Fort Auguſtus to the iſland of Sky. From that period till after the 1745, there were commonly one or two companies of foot quartered there; but ſince, a ſmaller command was deemed ſufficient; and for 20 years back there have been only a ſerjeant or corporal, with a few privates. Of the houſe that was formerly appropriated for the uſe of the ſoldiers, the ſkeleton only remains, but the officers barracks are ſtill habitable.

Church.—The living of this pariſh is L. 55 : 17 : $7\frac{11}{12}$; 46 bolls of oat-meal, 9 ſtones of Dutch weight to the boll, which at an average may be valued at L. 41, 8s. and 12 bolls bear, at the converſion of 10 merks Scots *per* boll, beſides a ſmall farm annexed to the church, which may be valued,

valued, including the glebe, at L. 12, ſo that the value of the whole living amounts to L. 115 : 18 : $11\frac{11}{111}$. The preſent miniſter was admitted in the year 1782, is married, and has five children, three ſons and two daughters. His predeceſſors in office were Meſſrs Donald Macleod, Murdoch Macleod, and John Morriſon. The church is ſituated near the ſea, and is in tolerable good order. The manſe, by being built on an eminence, is much expoſed to the weſterly winds; and though repaired in the year 1785, is far from being at preſent in a ſufficient ſtate. Colonel Macleod of Macleod is patron of the pariſh.

School.—The ſchool-houſe ſtands at the diſtance of a ſhort mile from the church. During the ſummer, the number of ſcholars that attend may be about 45. The ſalary is 300 merks Scots, paid by the Laird of Macleod and the tenants of his eſtate; the other diſtricts were never ceſſed with any proportion; the emoluments ariſing to the ſchoolmaſter are trifling, ſo that his income will not much exceed L. 20 Sterling. It is melancholy to think, that in every part of Scotland ſo little attention ſhould be paid to the moſt uſeful members of ſociety. In this diſtrict there is a ſchool, ſolely at the expence of the inhabitants, who ſend their children to it; the number of boys and girls that attend are 38. In Knowdort, there is one of the Society ſchools; the teacher has a ſalary of L. 12 Sterling allowed him; and ſcholars are from 30 to 40 in number.

Poor.—The number of poor on the roll of this pariſh at preſent is 31; they ſeldom or ever travel to beg elſewhere; are ſupported chiefly by the inhabitants, only in ſummer they receive a ſmall ſupply in meal from the funds collected upon Sundays, which at an average come to L. 7 or L. 8 Sterling a-year.

Fuel.—The fuel made uſe of in this pariſh is peats, which are ſeldom good, owing to the rainy ſeaſons, and the moſs being at a diſtance from their dwelling-houſes, ſo much time, labour, and expence is loſt in ſecuring them, that it is a matter of doubt whether coals be not cheaper. Though they have not yet availed themſelves of the liberality of Parliament in taking the duty off coal, it is probable they will ſoon find it their intereſt to import it.

Character of the Inhabitants.—The tackſmen of this pariſh are very reſpectable, both with regard to information and propriety of conduct, they live comfortably, and are hoſpitable to ſtrangers; the lower claſs of tenants are ſober and ſtrictly honeſt, and by no means deficient in charity to the poor. If a manufacture for coarſe cloths on a ſmall ſcale was eſtabliſhed in a village lately planned out by the Laird of Macleod, it could not fail of ſucceeding and employing many idle hands. The raw materials are to be had in the pariſh, and can be conveyed by water from each ſhepherd's ſtorehouſe at an eaſy expence. A net-manufacture might be carried on with advantage alſo; the ſpinning of the hemp and twining of the yarn would employ the old, and the making of the nets promote induſtry among the young; very little capital would be requiſite for both branches. In this village there are at preſent upwards of 100 ſouls.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The valued rent of the pariſh is L. 3565 Scotch; the land-rent cannot be aſcertained, but muſt exceed conſiderably L. 2000. As there are no markets for proviſions, their prices cannot be exactly known; every family kill for themſelves what butcher meat is requiſite. Men ſervants maintained in the family receive *per annum* from L. 2 to L. 3 for wages; the wo-

men from 10 s. to L. 1, beſides ſhoes, and other caſualties. Wrights receive 1 s. *per* day, and their victuals; a tailor is paid *per* piece, beſides his victuals. The roads are bad; Government propoſed, after the year 1745, to make a military road from Fort Auguſtus to Barnera barracks in this pariſh, and to build bridges over the rivers and burns, ſo as to render it paſſable for the troops and other travellers. The bridges were firſt erected by contractors, who made choice of thoſe parts over the waters where materials could be had at the cheapeſt rate; by this means the roads were unavoidably lengthened, and carried over ſteep and high precipices, up and down hill. This made the charge more troubleſome and vexatious to the military who laboured at the roads, that in no place or part was the road made ſufficient, or of proper dimenſions. Provoſt Brown of Elgin was employed in ſummer 1792 to ſurvey this road, attended by a country gentleman, well acquainted with the proper line to be followed; and as he has given in his report, it is hoped Government will ſoon ſee this neceſſary meaſure put in execution. As this line of road is the ſhorteſt from the metropolis to the iſland of Sky and the Long Iſland, and many bridges being already built, by which much expence might be ſaved, it muſt appear the more eligible to have this line continued. From its preſent ſituation it is impoſſible to ride it; by this means travellers are neceſſitated to freight veſſels from Argyleſhire at an enormous expence. A ſtage-houſe in the middle of the hill would be highly proper and neceſſary.

NUMBER XVI.

PARISH OF WHITHORN,

(SYNOD OF GALLOWAY, COUNTY AND PRESBYTERY OF WIGTON.

By ISAAC DAVIDSON, D.D.*

Names.

THIS place has passed under the following names: *Candida Casa, Leucopibia,* or *Leucophibia, Whithern,* or *Whitherne.* It is now called *Whithorn.*

Leucopibia

* In the Statistical Account of Sorbie, vol. i. p. 245. there is a mistake, which I beg leave to correct. It is there said, "The oak, ash, "beech, alder, fir," &c. in that parish, "are equal to any in their quality." This is right; the mistake follows: "Lord Galloway has "found, that *pruning* makes them grow with great vigour. By experiment it appears, that plants which were *pruned*, advanced at the rate "of four years in six, before those which were *not pruned*."

Upon the above passage, I observe:

1. That I never knew the Earl of Galloway order trees to be *pruned*, unless where their branches became troublesome upon the roads.

Leucopibia is probably a corruption of Λευκ' οικιδια. This Campden supposes was Ptolemy's translation of *Candida Casa* *, which transcribers have changed into *Leucopibia*.

As the Roman and Greek names signify *a white house*, or *white houses*, so Whithorn is supposed to have the same meaning. Campden says, *horn* is the Saxon word for a vessel of any kind; adding, that some people use inkern for an ink vessel; but it seems more probable, that inkern is a corruption of inkhorn, "a portable case for the instru-"ments of writing, commonly made of horn †."

As there are the remains of a Roman camp within one mile's distance of the town, may not Whithern be a corruption of *Via Tertiæ, i. e. Legionis, vel Cohortis?* *Via Tertiæ* might easily pass into Vitern, and Vitern again into Whithern. In Britain, the V is often changed into W, and the W into V. Thus, in London, many say, "Weal, "Vine, and Winegar, are wery good wittles, I wow."

The Town described.—The town consists chiefly of one street, running from N. to S. From this street there are several alleys stretching to the E. and to the W. About the centre of the town, there is a good hall for public meetings, adorned with a spire and turrets, and provided with a set of bells. A beautiful stream of water, over which there is a good bridge, runs across the main street, dividing it nearly into two equal parts. The houses are generally covered with slates, and made very commodious.

Ancient

2. I did not mean to ascribe the quick growth of trees to *pruning*, but to cutting over in an horizontal direction. From the stocks, shoots will spring to justify my remark. This treatment I have only known applied to oaks and ashes; to firs it would be death.

* See his Britannia, by Gibson, p. 1200.

† See Johnson *in verbo*.

Ancient Church, and Priory.—Ninian, who went to Rome in the year 370, was ordained a Biſhop of the Britons, and founded a church here in the fourth century, which he dedicated to St Martin *. Of this church, nothing now remains but ruins, and four Gothic arches, which make part of the preſent place of public worſhip. Theſe are upon high ground, on the weſt ſide of the town.

Here was a Premonſtratenſion Priory, endowed as follows:

Paid to it of money, - L. 1016 3 4½
Of bear, 15 chalders, 14 bolls, 2 firlots, 3½ pecks.
Of meal, 51 chalders, 15 bolls, 1 firlot, 3½ pecks.

The above account is taken from the collector's book, made about the year 1563. The ſurplus book, made about the year 1594, makes it more, and is as follows †:

Paid to it of money, - L. 1159 3 4
Of bear, 16 chalders, 6 bolls, 3 firlots.
Of meal, 53 chalders, 9 bolls, 2 firlots.

As Keith makes no mention of wheat being paid to the Biſhop of Galloway, to this Priory, or that of St Mary Iſle, to the Abbeys of Dundrenan, New Abbey, Saulſcat, or Tungland, it may be preſumed that it was not produced in this part of the country ‡.

Antiquity of the Place.—Whithorn is a place of great antiquity, as it was a Roman ſtation, the capital of the Novantes,

* Smith ad Bede, p. 106. and Redpath's Border Hiſt. p. 20.

† Keith's Hiſt. Appendix, b. 3. p. 181.

‡ Since writing the above, a friend of mine informs me, that wheat was paid to the Abbot of New Abbey, near Glenluce, and founds his opinion upon a charter of lands in that neighbourhood.

vantes, a Britiſh tribe, which poſſeſſed all Galloway beyond the river Dee *, and ſo early the ſeat of religion. Mr Pinkerton ſays †, the biſhopric of Galloway, or Whithorn, is the oldeſt in Scotland.

A Royal Burgh.—It is now a Royal Burgh, governed by a provoſt, two bailies, and fifteen councillors.

Boundaries and Extent.—This pariſh lies in the ſhire and preſbytery of Wigton, and Synod of Galloway, being part of the peninſula formed, on one ſide by Wigton Bay and Solway Frith, and on the other by Luce Bay. From the place where it joins Sorbie, it ſtretches along the eaſtern coaſt, doubling Burgh Head, and looking towards the Mull of Galloway, the ancient Novantum Cherſoneſus and Promontorium. From N. to S. it meaſures about ſeven miles and three quarters; and from E. to W. about four miles and one quarter. It is bounded by Wigton Bay, Solway Frith, and the pariſh of Sorbie, on the E.; by Luce Bay and the pariſh of Glaſſerton, on the W.; and by the pariſhes of Glaſſerton and Sorbie, on the N.

Face of the Country.—The face of the country is variegated with hills and valleys. In ſome places, the land is broken, and appears barren at a diſtance, but upon examination, it is found deep and rich. Such land here is dry, provided with ſhelter, and of the firſt quality for grazing. The ſoil of this pariſh is in general fertile, divided by ſtone walls, covered with lime, ſea ſhells or marl, and produces rich crops, or feeds the beſt cattle.

The

* Whitaker's Hiſt. of Mancheſter, 2d edit. vol. i. p. 97.

† Vol. ii. p. 268.

The face of the country is improving daily, not only by the cultivation beſtowed upon the land, but by a paſſion for planting which ſhews itſelf among the land-holders. From the ſubterraneous timbers found in all the moſſes, it appears, that this peninſula had been once well clothed with oaks, firs, *&c.* It was afterwards rendered perfectly bare, of every tree and ſhrub.

Planting.—About the year 1722, William Agnew, Eſq; late of Caſtlewigg, began to plant upon his eſtate, and may be conſidered as the father of this important ſpecies of improvement in this neighbourhood. His nephew Hugh Hathorn, Eſq; ſucceeded him, and planted with great ſpirit and ſucceſs; ſo that now, every ſpecies of oak, aſh, beech and fir, are in great perfection in the foreſt; and theſe, with ſingle rows, verges and clumps, have a very happy effect upon the appearance of the country.

The beeches upon this eſtate are of a very large girth, and great height; and the balm-of-Gilead fir is ſuperior to any I ever ſaw. The ſeed of this fir is ſent to the London market, and is equal to any ſold there. Here an attention to the beautiful and uſeful, appears to great advantage in ſpring and early ſummer, when the larches and cherry-trees adorn the verges; thoſe with their well-known luſtre, and theſe with charming flowers, rich foliage, and ſhining bark.

Captain Hathorn inherits his father's ſpirit as a planter, and has done, and is doing much in the way of embelliſhing his eſtate. Many things encourage him in an employment ſo worthy of a man of fortune, particularly the ſituation of the family-ſeat, a venerable old caſtle, exhibiting a view of the ſtate and hoſpitality of the Scottiſh barons. Its lodging rooms are numerous, and both theſe and the public

rooms

rooms are large, conſidering the time in which they were built. This ſeat looks down upon a fine low country, of extent enough to give the beſt effect to a grand chain of mountains, which are adorned by woods running along their baſes, and waſhed by the river Cree. It alſo has a view of the Bay of Wigton. The veſſels moving upon this bay and the river now mentioned, add much to the beauty of the ſcene.

The garden is large, continued in the ancient ſtyle to correſpond to the houſe, and well provided with fruit. The box hedges and yews are remarkable for their beauty, and ſeveral curious plants flouriſh here, particularly the tulip tree.

Hugh Stewart, Eſq; of Tonderghie, has built a very handſome houſe, which commands a view of England and the Iſle of Man. His lands being expoſed to ſtorms from the Atlantic Ocean, he has had great difficulties to contend with as a planter; but his ſound judgment and perſevering temper, which have enabled him to give the higheſt degree of improvement to his family-eſtate, will ſecure him of victory over theſe difficulties, or make them an eaſy conqueſt to his ſon. Upon this eſtate, the effects of marl are ſeen to the greateſt advantage. The land being covered with this manure, a moderate cropping takes place. After which it is laid down in the beſt order; and produces the fineſt and moſt luxuriant paſture.

The Earl of Galloway, and his brother the Honourable Admiral Stewart, are both planting in this pariſh, and improving its appearance.

Turnips, &c.—The land here is well ſuited to turnips, it being ſharp and dry, and never expoſed to ſevere froſts. This crop, however, is ſeldom uſed, though its effects in fattening old, and in giving bone to young cattle, are great and

and evident. It is long before the tide of opinion turns in favour of management plainly advantageous in the higheſt degree. The writer of this report remembers the time in which there was ſcarcely a turnip field to be ſeen in Northumberland, Roxburghſhire, or Berwickſhire, where ſuch fields are now ſo much and ſo juſtly valued. The fallow preceding the turnip, and the turnips themſelves, being of ſuch high conſequence to a wiſe ſyſtem of agriculture, it cannot be doubted that the people will ſoon fall into the general uſe of this crop. Thoſe who hold this reaſoning very cheap, perhaps remember when their fathers (like ſome people in Yorkſhire now) thought themſelves well employed in paring and burning their fine land.

This practice is everywhere reprobated in Galloway, where burning is never performed but in deep moſſes. The preſent averſion to turnip and fallowing, will ſoon ſhare the ſame fate. The good ſenſe of the people, and their increaſing attention to potato crops, perſuade me of this. Potato crops are valuable, but not in the ſame degree with turnip, as they do not allow ſo much time for fallowing, and as the potato remains in the ground till the ſeed is ripe. This laſt circumſtance exhauſts the ſoil.

Fallows were ſo much valued in the days of Virgil, that they were ſometimes continued through two ſeaſons.

" Illa ſeges demum votis reſpondet avari
" Agricolæ, bis quæ ſolem, bis frigora ſenſit,
" Iliius immenſæ ruperunt horrea meſſis."

" That crop rewards the greedy peaſant's pains,
" Which twice the ſun and twice the cold ſuſtains,
" And burſts the crowded barns with more than pro-
" mis'd gains."

Good dwelling-houſes, and office-houſes upon farms, add much to the appearance of a country; and ſure no ſet of men deſerve good lodgings more than farmers do. In this pariſh theſe have improved very much within the laſt twenty years. They are often covered with ſlate, and divided into convenient apartments. Sheds and ſtraw-yards are coming into general uſe.

Air.—Here the air is dry and healthy, and I never heard that any diſeaſe became epidemic.

Courſe of Crops.—The land being covered with lime, marl, or ſea-ſhells, is opened with beer (big), or oats, and three crops of theſe ſucceed each other. With the laſt is ſown rye-graſs and clover ſeeds, which is cut in the ſummer after the grain has been reaped. This hay-crop, as the rye-graſs generally prevails, is almoſt as ſevere upon the land as oats.

Increaſe and Weight of Grain.—The average increaſe of beer, is about eight-fold, and of oats about five-fold. Barley weighs about 52 lb. bear, 46 lb. and oats, 36 lb. avoirdupois, the Wincheſter buſhel.

Coaſt; Head-lands and Bays.—The extent of coaſt is about nine miles. The ſhore near Burgh Head is bold, and everywhere rocky. At this headland a lighthouſe would be of the greateſt uſe to the trade in thoſe parts. Beſide the headland now mentioned, there are Port-Yarrock Head and Stun Head; and the bays are thoſe of Port Allan, Port Yarrock, and Iſle of Whithorn.

Tides.—From Port Yarrock round Burgh Head, the tide flows cloſe along the ſhore three hours, and ebbs nine.

From

From the Roſs of Kirkcudbright to the Mull of Galloway, it flows and ebbs ſix hours.

Sea Fight.—The only ſea fight ſpoken of as having taken place near this ſhore, is that of Commodore (now Admiral) Elliot, in the year 1760, when that brave and experienced officer defeated the French ſquadron under Thurot, killed Thurot himſelf, and made prizes of all his ſhips. The Britiſh ſquadron was greatly inferior to the French in every thing but courage and management. The people in this part of the country, and the nation in general, owe great obligations to Admiral Elliot, who quieted their fears, and placed them in ſafety.

Shipwreck.—About 40 years ago, a veſſel 200 tons burden, was blown upon a rock near Burgh Head, where ſhe was daſhed to pieces. The maſt inclining to one ſide, and reſting upon the rock, the captain and ten men made their way to the top of it, where they remained till day-break, when they deſcended by means of their clothes faſtened together, and ſome rope which was left on the ſide of the rock by the veſſel as ſhe ſunk. The tide having retired, and the men getting upon the beach, their next effort was to aſcend a precipice between them and the country. In making this effort, after ſo much fatigue, nature was ſo far exhauſted in them, that one of their number dropped down dead as ſoon as he reached the top.

The eſcape of theſe men appears very wonderful, and can only be aſcribed to the watchful providence of God. The rock, upon which they remained for ſome hours, beat upon by a heavy rain and violent wind, is of a conical form, 70 feet high and upwards; and about two yards, or two yards and a half, broad at the top. How they clung together

together and ſtuck to the rock, is more than I can account for after careful examination of it.

The benevolence and zeal of the gentlemen and people in the neighbourhood, in comforting and aiding theſe unfortunate men, were ſuch as did honour to their feelings; and the piety of the late Hugh Hathorn, Eſq; of Caſtlewigg, on whoſe ſhore the rock was, led him to call it, the Rock of Providence.

Of mariners we may well ſay,

'Tis God that brings them ſafe to land;
Let every mortal know,
That waves are under his command,
And all the winds that blow.

O that ſuch reſcu'd men would praiſe
Thy goodneſs, gracious Lord;
And thoſe that ſee thy wondrous ways,
Thy wondrous love record.

Dr WATTS, with ſome variations.

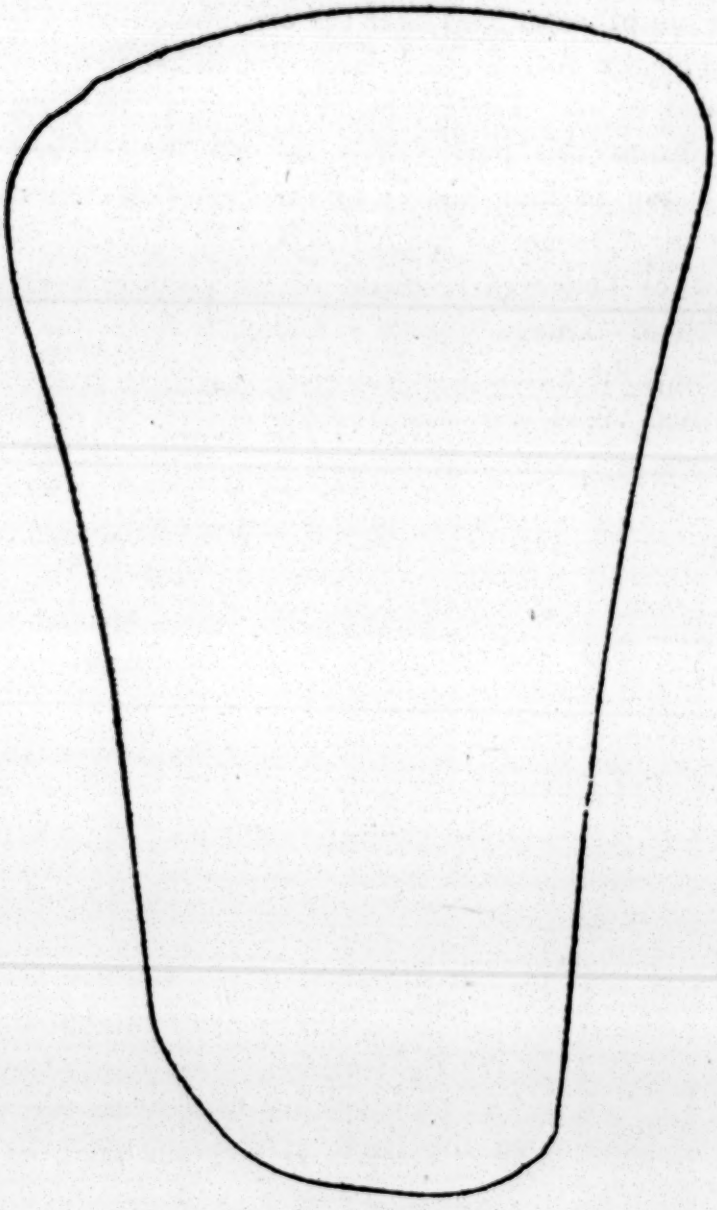
Marble, Lead, Copper, &c.—Near the rock above mentioned, and upon the ſame eſtate, very fine variegated marble, and ſtrong ſlate are found.

Upon the eſtates of Robert Hathorn Stewart, Eſq; of Phiſgill, and Hugh Stewart, Eſq; of Tonderghie, there are promiſing appearances of lead mines; upon the lands of the gentleman laſt mentioned there are alſo the ſtrongeſt appearances of copper. Some time ago, a company of miners undertook to work it, upon condition, that Mr Stewart ſhould have the eighth ſhare of the profits, and be compenſated for the damages done to his land; but, unfortunately, the principal died, and his heirs did not chuſe to carry

carry on any thing new. This put an end to the buſineſs at that time; but ſurely it cannot be diſcontinued long; and as ſoon as a perſon of ſpirit and property knows of it, it will be duly attended to. An old miner examined it lately, and was delighted with the appearances, lamenting, at the ſame time, his want of power to engage with it. A fine ſtream of water runs over the ore, and on one ſide it is waſhed by the ſea, ſo that large veſſels can come within 100 yards of it. The Iſle of Whithorn, a ſafe port, is at hand. From this port veſſels ſail to Whitehaven and Workington in four hours; to the Iſle of Man in three; to Dublin, Greenock, and Liverpool in eighteen. Upon the lands of Tonderghie, pieces of fine copper have been often found. Lately, a piece of a circular form was found, weighing 3 ſtone and 5 lb. avoirdupois; and ſix pieces in an earthen veſſel were diſcovered in the garden of one of his tenants.

Figure

Figure and Size of the Six Pieces of Copper found upon the Eſtate of Hugh Stewart, Eſq; of Tonderghie, as mentioned in the preceding page.——**N. B.** *On one ſide it is flat, and on the other a little raiſed.*



Church, &c.—The pariſh church, of which his Majeſty is patron, ſtands upon part of the ſcite of the priory, and is a commondious place of worſhip. Near to the church ſtands the manſe, which is a good uſeful houſe. The ſtipend being lately augmented, amounts to about L. 107 Sterling, and the glebe conſiſts of about ſeven acres of very good land. Iſaac Davidſon is the preſent miniſter, being lately tranſlated to this pariſh from that of Sorbie. He is a married man, and has only one child, a ſon, Elliot William Davidſon, who has ſucceeded him as miniſter of Sorbie. Meſſrs Kelſo, Elder, Delap, Maccaul, and Adair, preceded one another here in the paſtoral office.

Antiquities.—There are the ruins of a church near Iſle of Whithorn, with a burying ground upon the lands of Robert Hathorn Stewart, Eſq. The people ſay this was the firſt Chriſtian place of worſhip in Scotland. Between theſe places there is a ſtone, upon which is inſcribed, " Hic " eſt locus Petri Apoſtoli.'

The remains of ſeveral camps and caſtles appear upon the coaſt. The following are upon precipices by the ſhore:

Carghidoun, upon the eſtate of Tonderghie, covers about half an acre of ground.

To the S. of this, about one mile's diſtance, ſtands Caſtle Feather, covering near an acre. Some of the wall of this fortification remains.

Going ſtill ſouthward, you meet with another caſtle, about the ſame ſize with the former; and at Burgh Head there are works covering three acres.

Theſe three laſt are about equal diſtances from one another, and ſtand upon the lands of Captain Hathorn of Caſtlewigg.

The

The caſtles now mentioned all look to the Iſle of Man, and are probably the remains of thoſe places of defence, raiſed againſt the Scandinavian rovers, who uſed to make that iſland the place of their rendezvous, and from whence they uſed to annoy the Hebrides, Ireland, and Great Britain. They not only look to the Iſle of Man, but ſtand upon that Britiſh ground neareſt to it.

The Roman camp mentioned above, ſee p. 276, is the only one of that deſcription in the pariſh. It is much defaced; yet its remains plainly prove its origin, and that it was *Caſtra Stativa*. It is upon the lands of the Honourable Admiral R. Stewart.

Two urns were found on Captain Hathorn's lands, in a good ſtate of preſervation, and are now in his cabinet. One large piece of copper, of a circular form, was alſo found by one of his tenants, while dreſſing a field, and brought to him. There is in the ſame gentleman's cabinet a natural curioſity, which, though a little out of place, I ſhall mention here. It is a ball, which was taken out of a bullock's ſtomach, about the ſize of an orange. This ball, being perforated, appears to be a concretion of hair which the animal had ſwallowed.

Longevity.—There have been ſeveral inſtances of longevity here, and perſons between 70 and 80 years of age abound. Laſt year (1793) a man died, who was ſaid to be upwards of 100; but though there are evidences to ſhew that he was a very old man, there are none to fix the year of his birth.

Mrs Macmillan, widow of Bailie Anthony Macmillan, late of this burgh, died this year (1794) in her hundredth year. She lived in this pariſh, and near neighbourhood of it, all her life, and was connected with ſome of the beſt families of the county. Her age is well authenticated.

She

She left two ſons, one of them a preſent magiſtrate in the burgh, and two daughters. Upon enquiry, I have found that Mrs Macmillan was bleſſed with a good natural temper, and was always the friend of peace; that ſhe enjoyed an eaſy and uniform flow of ſpirits, and was greatly eſteemed by her neighbours as a perſon of the beſt moral character. She was remarkable for cleanlineſs in her perſon, at her table, and in her houſe; and to the end of life ſhewed great attention to her dreſs. To all her other accompliſhments ſhe added thoſe of religion, the duties of which ſhe performed with an attention and zeal, highly worthy of imitation. Religion appeared in her with a ſmiling countenance, guided her honourably through the different ſtages of life, and miniſtered to her joy in its evening. Her ſenſe of duty led her to induſtry; and her religious principles and feelings beſtowed upon her contentment, and cheerful truſt in God. She lived like a ſaint, and died like a Chriſtian heroine.

Population.—The population of this pariſh, about 55 years ago, was placed at 1300; now it is 1890.

Of theſe there are, Males,	-	-	938
Females,	-		952
			1890
The town contains, Males,	-	345	
Females,	-	411	
			756
The Iſle of Whithorn, the only village, contains,			
Males,	-	208	
Females,	-	188	
			396
Carried forward,			1152

	Brought forward,		1152
The country part of the pariſh contains,			
	Males, -	379	
	Females, -	359	
			738
	Total, -		1890

Poor.—There are 34 poor upon the liſt, who are ſupported by collections at the church-doors, amounting to about L. 32 *per annum*, and ſuch gifts as the pariſhioners are pleaſed to beſtow upon them, when they aſk alms at their houſes. Upon theſe occaſions they receive a part of every thing in its ſeaſon.

Profeſſions.—There is 1 clergyman, 1 writer, 1 attorney, 1 plaſterer, 1 ſaddler, 18 maſons and 1 apprentice, 16 joiners and 11 apprentices, 2 ſlaters, 25 weavers and 2 apprentices, 22 ſhoemakers and 2 apprentices, 16 tailors and 2 apprentices, 8 blackſmiths and 1 apprentice, 1 landwaiter, and 1 tideſman, 12 ſhopkeepers, 2 coopers and 1 apprentice.

Sectaries.—There are a few ſectaries of the Cameronian and Antiburgher deſcriptions.

Emigration.—In the year 1774, a few people emigrated to America. They left their native country, their relatives, and abounding means of enjoyment, to ſettle in woods, among ſavages and wild beaſts. Many of theſe deluded creatures were rich, and left very profitable leaſes, to bemoan their folly in uncultivated deſerts.

Produce.—This pariſh has grain enough for its inhabitants, and alſo much for exportation. In 1782-3 it enjoyed its uſual plenty.

Manures.

Manures.—In many places there are very large pits of fine marl; and ſea-ſhell may be procured in any quantity at a low price.

Advantages for Trade.—The advantages of this neighbourhood for trade are obvious. Its grain, and herds of black cattle; its flocks of ſheep, with fine wool; its rivulets, and water-carriage to the beſt markets, all point it out as the ſeat of commerce.

Repeal of Coal-tax.—The goodneſs and wiſdom of Government have removed one great obſtruction to the trade of this country, by taking the duty off coals borne coaſtways. For this, men of all ranks feel grateful to Parliament; and becauſe of it, Mr Dundas will be remembered with applauſe for ages to come.

Salt Laws.—The ſalt-laws have a moſt unfriendly operation upon this pariſh and neighbourhood; and need only to be read to be condemned by every wiſe and patriotic ſtateſman.

In Cheſhire there is a ſtratum of rock ſalt, upwards of 50 feet in thickneſs, and ſalt ſprings, appearing every where in that county, ſhew it to be amply provided with that valuable article. Were this treaſure open to all his Majeſty's ſubjects equally, either without any tax, or upon a moderate one, the greateſt advantages would ariſe to trade in general, and in particular to the exportation of ſalted proviſions. But it is locked up from the community at large by ſeveral ſtatutes, which ſeem to have proceeded from partial views, and a ſhort-ſighted policy. Theſe ſtatutes forbid the refining of rock ſalt into white ſalt in any but a few places therein ſpecified. All England, excepting theſe few places, and the whole of Scotland, are excluded from the

the benefit of uſing and refining rock ſalt, which may be exported to foreign countries, and to Ireland. The 9th of Queen Anne, c. 23. § 44. enacts, That for 32 years, every ton of rock ſalt, put on board any ſhip in Great Britain, and exported to Ireland, ſhall pay 9 s. This duty is made perpetual by 3d Geo. I. c. 7. but is not exacted. No man of enlarged views will grudge the Iriſh this advantage. Let them enjoy it, only let us enjoy it along with them.

Rock ſalt refined, and made into white ſalt, is eight times as ſtrong as that made in the frith of Forth; and at Liverpool the former is ſold, the beſt at 8 d. and ſmall at 5 d. *per* buſhel, excluſive of duties; while that made in the frith of Forth is ſold at 1 s. 3 d. Here is a temptation to ſmuggling, which cannot be reſiſted; and this ruinous contraband trade flouriſhes in the weſt of England and Scotland.

Were the duty on ſalt taken off, and Scotland put upon the ſame footing with Ireland, the great waſte of beef and tallow, proceeding from driving our cattle to the Engliſh markets, would be prevented. This waſte is greater than is commonly thought of, in ſo much, that the eighth part of every bullock is ſuppoſed to be loſt in his journey; and to this may be added, a tenth part of his value expended upon him, for driving and food on his way *. Much better would it be for the country were he ſlaughtered at home; but this cannot be done in the preſent ſtate of the ſalt laws. Theſe laws do not only keep away from us much good, but they expoſe us every year to great evil. Almoſt all our ſalt being ſmuggled, there is a dependence upon a precarious ſupply at the time of laying in our winter's proviſion; and I have known poor people in danger of

* Accidents added, make this tenth an eighth, ſo that one fourth is really loſt.

of losing that provision. I think I hear some self-conceited person cry out, Why don't they send to a licenced cellar or warehouse, and get salt in a legal way? Why, I tell thee, thou wiseacre, that in these places there is little other than smuggled salt. Wisdom calls for a review of the salt laws; and justice and impartiality require at least their equalization.

Were the duty on salt taken off it, and laid upon British spirits, much good would arise from the commutation to the public. It would tend to soberise the people, and to lead them to the use of malt liquor. At present, there is little malt liquor sold in this country.

The duty on English salt is 5 s. *per* bushel, weighing 56 lb.; but I never heard of 1 s. of duty being received, it being all smuggled. Make the duty lower, and it will be paid.

Harbour at Isle of Whithorn, &c.—At Isle of Whithorn there is a good natural harbour, improved by a quay. It is narrow at the entrance, but very safe for vessels when in. Eight or nine small sloops belong to this place, in which about 30 mariners are employed. They bring coal and lime from England; carry sea-shells from the river Cree, and take away the grain, potatoes, with some fat cattle, sheep, and swine to the different markets. Here is stationed one of his Majesty's revenue cutters.

Farms.—The average rent of land is 12 s. 6 d. *per* acre. Farms are from L. 30 to L. 300 *per annum*, and houses are let at L. 14, and downwards.

Schools.—There are three schools, one of which is established by law; the master enjoys a salary of L. 9.

Inns,

Inns, &c.—Here are 4 inns, and 12 ale, or rather whiſky houſes. Such houſes are much too numerous in this country, and the morals of the people are greatly injured by them. They retail a baſe ſpirit, ſo low, as to price, that ſixpennyworth of it is enough to make any man mad.

Mills.—There are 5 corn mills in the pariſh, 4 of which go by water, and one is driven by the wind.

Cottagers.—The effects of employing cottagers upon farms are very friendly to population. Their children are a ſtout and a healthy race.

Tanning, &c.—Tanning of leather has been carried on for ſeveral years to a conſiderable extent. The tanner ſees our own cattle driven to England, and then ſets off for Ireland to buy raw hides.—Several cotton manufactures have commenced.

Stillatory.—Here alſo is a ſtillatory, which pays to the revenue L. 729 *per annum*, beſides malt-duty.

State of the Country before the Union.—Before the Union of the two kingdoms, this pariſh had nothing to trade with but black cattle, and a ſmall quantity of bear or big. The laſt of theſe laſt articles they ſent to Man for brandy. Agriculture was then ſo little regarded, that landholders were often obliged to lend oxen, and horſes, and ſeed-corn to their farmers.

Heritors.—The heritors of this pariſh are, the Right Honourable the Earl of Galloway, *&c. &c. &c.* John Hathorn, Eſq; of Caſtlewigg; James Murray, Eſq; of Broughton; Robert Hathorn Stewart, Eſq; of Phiſgill;

Hugh Stewart, Eſq; of Tonderghie; the Honourable Admiral Keith Stewart; the Honourable Sir Stair Agnew, Baronet, of Lochnaw-caſtle.

Crofters.—Beſides the above, there are five ſmall landholders, called *crofters* in this part of the country. There has been a great change of property in this pariſh within this century; as I am informed, there were 22 conſiderable landholders in the country part of the pariſh, beſides eight crofters in the town.

John Hathorn, Eſq; of Caſtlewigg, and Hugh Stewart, Eſq; of Tonderghie, are the reſiding heritors.

The ſmall proprietors are, Bailie Donar, Mr Macgoan, Mr Anthony Macguffock, Mr John Sorry, Mr Charles Broadfoot. All theſe live in the town excepting Mr Macgoan.

Labour and Proviſions, &c.—Of late years the prices of labour and of proviſions have become very high. This has been accompanied by a great change in the way of living among all ranks of people.

About 60 years ago, there were no clocks, watches, or tea-kettles, but among people of fortune, or ſome of the miniſters. In farmers houſes there were no windows of glaſs. The light was admitted through openings on each ſide of the houſe, and that in the windward ſide was filled with ſtraw in blowing weather.

Clothing.—The modes of clothing and living were in proportion, and conſiſted of the pooreſt fare and coarſeſt apparel: Now they live as well as any in Great Britain of their rank. The men are clothed, ſometimes with homeſpun, but more commonly with Yorkſhire narrows, cotton velvets, and corderoys. The women appear in printed linens, cottons and muſlins. Here I ſpeak of men and women

women of the loweſt ranks in life; ſervants, cottagers, and mechanics.

Clocks.—Almoſt every houſe has a ſeven-day clock; and watches are near as common as breeches.

Progreſs ſince the Union.—Before the Union of the two kingdoms, the glorious era of Britain's peace and proſperity, there was not a ſloop, ſhip, or veſſel of any kind to go to ſea in, in this neighbourhood; but now we ſee their canvas ſpread all round the coaſt, and importing from the Weſt Indies, and the different countries in Europe, every thing tending to uſe, to ornament, or luxury.

Wealth.—The trade and improvements in agriculture have introduced wealth among the people; real wealth, proceeding from growing ſkill and increaſing induſtry. This wealth has ſunk the value of money, in a proportion almoſt incredible, as will appear from the following tables, ſhewing the ancient and preſent prices of proviſions and labour. By ancient, I mean no more than about 60 years ago.

Ancient.				*Preſent.*			
A cow for ſlaughter, weighing 25 ſtone Avoird.							
	L. 1	8	0	Ditto, -	L. 6	0	0
Weathers, *per* ſcore,	4	10	0	Ditto, -	13	0	0
Fowls, *per* doz.	0	4	0	Ditto, -	0	8	0
Eggs, *per* doz.	0	0	1	Ditto, -	0	0	3
Butter, *per* lb.	0	0	5	Ditto, -	0	0	9
				Labour.			
A labourer, *per* day,							
	L. 0	0	4	Ditto, -	L. 0	0	10
An houſe ſervant,							
per annum,	1	10	0	Ditto, from L. 6 to 10	0	0	
A tailor, *per* day,	0	0	4	Ditto, from 8 d. to	0	0	10

Every

Every thing elſe is in proportion with thoſe entered in the above tables. To theſe things the change in the way of living is to be added. Tables are conducted in a different ſtyle; and ale has given place to punch, and punch to wine.

When the particulars ſtated are duly attended to, Mr Keith's concluſion from ſimilar premiſſes appears reaſonable. "Upon the whole matter," ſays he, "this much ſeems to "be certain, that for all domeſtic uſes L. 100 at the time "we are now ſpeaking of," *ann.* 1563, "was, at a mode-"rate computation, as valuable in all points as L. 700 are "now a-days."——*N. B.* Keith wrote, I think, before the year 1740 *.

Effects of the Decreaſe of the Value of Money upon the Miniſters of Religion.—This great change in the value of money has ruined many who were dependent on ſalaries fixed 80 or an 100 years ago; and unleſs relief is given, many more muſt ſuffer the ſame hard fate. No ſet of men feel this change more than the miniſters of this National Church, who are generally paid, not in kind, but in money. When their ſtipends were firſt appointed, L. 60, according to a ſafe calculation, was equal to L. 180 now.

The progreſs of ſociety calls aloud, Confine not the miniſters of religion to their ancient appointments. Why? ſay the needy, the greedy, and the graceleſs, Is not a poor church moſt like to be a pure church? Thoſe men who have hackneyed this ſaying allow, when their intereſt is out of the way, that poverty is often as great an enemy to virtue as wealth. We plead not for overgrown wealth. We only humbly crave, that our income may riſe as the neceſſary expence of living increaſes.

* See Keith's Hiſt. Appendix, lib. 3. p. 190.

That the poverty of the miniſters of religion is not only injurious to them, but alſo to the peace and order of ſociety, will be allowed by every perſon who thinks a National Church of any uſe. He who is in eaſy circumſtances will be forward in acts of goodneſs, and ſhew a pattern of that charity which he recommends. He will diffuſe a ſpirit of contentment, joy, and induſtry, every where about him. In him the Church will find an enlightened friend, and the State a prudent, firm champion. When he goes about the ſacred duties of religion, he commands reſpect by the integrity and benevolence of his life, which gives weight to all he ſays. He, on the contrary, who lives on L. 75 or L. 80 *per annum* in a pariſh where there are many tithes, is in danger of becoming ſullen and indifferent to a Government where he ſuffers ſo much injuſtice.

NUM-

NUMBER XVII.

PARISH OF BOTHWELL,

(COUNTY OF LANARK, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR, AND PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.)

By the Rev. Mr MICHAEL MACCULLOCH, *Miniſter.*

Name.

THE origin of the name is uncertain. *Both*, in Celtic, Syriac, Chaldee, and Saxon, ſignifies "a habitation or dwelling." *Huil*, in Celtic, is "a flood or water;" and compounded with *Both*, Both-uil or Bothwell, is "a habitation beſide or on the waters." This ſenſe is confirmed by Llhuid's Archæol. Brit. Bullet, Baxter, and Verſtigan *.

It

* Ed. Llhuid's Archæol. Brit. *voce* "to dwell," *Bod* is Welſh-Celtic for "habitation."—Bullet's Memoires ſur la Langue Celtique, tom. iii. p. 4. *Bod* ſignifies "habitation."—Baxter's Gloſſary, *Bodo* means "aquoſus."—Verſtigan's Reſtitution of decayed Intelligence, words ending in *well* denote places beſide water.

It might mean the patron ſaint. Thus, pronounced *Bothval*, gives "St Bothan's town," and from thence extended to the pariſh.

Bullet * renders *Bothwell*, "a caſtle upon an eminence;" from *Both*, which he interprets "eminence," and *wall*, in compoſition *well*, "a caſtle."

The firſt ſenſe ſeems to ſuit the ſituation of the caſtle, the town, and the pariſh: For the Clyde encircles a great part of the caſtle †, paſſes near to the town or village; in a flood, covers the low ground beſide the hill on which it ſtands; while the two Calders almoſt ſurround the reſt.

Situation and Extent.—Bothwell was a great, noble and ancient barony, extending from Clyde to Weſt Lothian. It is ſituated in the nether ward of the county of Lanark, in the preſbytery of Hamilton, and Synod of Glaſgow and Ayr: bounded upon the S. by the Clyde, and part of South Calder; on the W. and N. by North Calder; on the E. by the Shotts. It is of an oval figure, extending from W. to E. broadeſt toward the middle, and contracted at both ends; about eight miles and a half in length, and four at the greateſt breadth.

The great road from Glaſgow to Edinburgh goes through the whole length of the pariſh, and divides it nearly into two equal halves; enters it at the weſt point, by a bridge over the Calder, about a quarter of a mile north from where it joins the Clyde, and 5½ miles from Glaſgow. After a very ſteep aſcent, which is ſoon to be levelled, it goes along upon a flat of 4 or 5 miles, and then aſcends conſiderably towards the eaſt, as it approaches the high lands of the

* Tom. i. p. 395.

† Bothal Caſtle, in Northumberland, is ſituated upon the *river* Wentbeck.

the Shotts. The ground to the ſouth of the road gradually declines toward the river, which gives a fine proſpect of the Clyde, Hamilton, and the adjacent country.

The great flat of the upper part of the pariſh is, at a medium, 300 feet above the level of the ſea; that toward the Clyde is greatly lower.

The church and village of Bothwell is 36½ miles from Edinburgh, *per* ſection from the great road leading to the village; 8 from Glaſgow; 27 from Stirling; 17 from Lanark.

The diſtance from neighbouring pariſhes, (bearing and diſtance from the church), are theſe: Hamilton, ſouth-eaſt, ſeparated by the Clyde, 3 miles diſtance. Blantyre, upon the ſouth, ſeparated alſo by the Clyde; diſtance, 3 miles. North-weſt is Old Monkland, ſeparated by North Calder; diſtance, 3 miles. Upon the north, New or Eaſt Monkland, diſtance 8 miles, ſeparated by the North Calder. Upon the north-eaſt, the Shotts, diſtance 8 miles. Cambuſnethan E. N. E. ſeparated by South Calder, diſtance 8 miles. Upon the eaſt, Dalziel, at 3 miles diſtance, ſeparated by the South Calder.

Surface and Soil.—The pariſh riſes gradually from the Clyde to the north, and ſtill more to the north-eaſt. Upon the banks of the river, ſouth from the church, a large flat ſucceeds; at the termination of which, an aſcent takes place toward the middle, or the line of the turnpike, where it reſts in another large level, extending almoſt the whole length of the pariſh, but riſing in ſome places toward the north, and very conſiderably to the eaſt.

There can ſcarcely be ſaid to be either moſs, moor or moraſs in the pariſh. If there are ſome ſpots of the two laſt, they are ſo ſmall as not to deſerve conſideration. In general, all is arable.

The

The ſoil is chiefly clay, of various mixture, loam, ſand and till, and ſome of a lighter mould. It is good toward the Clyde, where there is more warmth and ſhelter; and there is a great deal of excellent ground in the pariſh.

Placed in ſo fine an expoſure to the ſouth, occupying ſo large a ſpace, and ſo commanding a view of one of the fineſt countries in Scotland, the ſituation is from theſe circumſtances very beautiful, and peculiarly adapted to the purpoſes of cultivation.

Air and Climate.— The air is good, and the climate healthful. A ridge of high hills, about ten miles north, carry off the clouds and vapour, that may be raiſed from the Atlantic, or otherwiſe. A long ſtretch of high ground does the ſame ſervice on the ſouth; and the pariſh, on account of its ſeparate ſtate, happily remains unaffected, while the ſtorm is driving along both. The chief inconvenience ariſes from the clay ſoil tenaciouſly keeping upon the ſurface the rain that falls in winter. But the declining poſition of the pariſh, the good roads and ditches, ſerve as drains, and prevent any ſenſible bad effects upon the health of the people. Their houſes are placed upon a dry ſituation, and well covered. There is no diſeaſe peculiar to the pariſh. When the ſmall pox enter a village, from their cloſe connexion and mode of frequent viſiting each other in diſtreſs, the infection becomes general, but ſeldom fatal. The air at the eaſt end is ſharper, the ground conſiderably higher, and the ſnow lies longer.

Many arrive at old age; yet the employment of the huſbandman is not the moſt favourable for a very advanced life. Engaged in inceſſant toils, driven often from the extremity of heat to cold, expoſed to all the inclemencies of the elements; theſe wear out the beſt conſtitutions; and extreme old age is to be aſcribed more to the uncommon

ſtrength of ſtamina, than to fine air or climate, elſe the effects of theſe would be more equally felt.

Wood and Planting.—The woods are chiefly beſide the proprietors ſeats, and upon the banks of the waters, where there is a good deal of coppice, and ſeveral large plantations. Some of fir, planted many years ſince, had arrived to a conſiderable ſize, and were lately ſold to a good account; but enough is left, both for ornament and ſhelter. Many plots and ſtrips were made lately, and promiſe well. One of the fineſt places in the pariſh derives its name* from the extenſive woods and plantations about it.

The woody banks of the Clyde and Calders, are frequented by the uſual tenants of the groves of Caledonia, particularly the thruſh and blackbird. The village and manſe, on account of the planting, are highly favoured with the muſic of theſe two melodious birds, eſpecially the laſt.

Population.

Under 15 years of age,	-	1112
From 15 to 70, -	-	1535
Above 70, -	-	60
In all,		2707 †

Males,

* Woodhall.

† *Local Diviſions.*

Woodhall, Lauchope, Sideridge, -	- 779
Stevenſon, Cleland, Carfin, Tirviſton,	- 495
Orbiſton, upper and lower, -	- - 526
Back of moor, Carnbroe, -	- 195
Uddingſton, and out farms,	- 287
Bothwell, out farms, and Bothwell Caſtle,	- 425
	2707

This diviſion may gratify poſterity, as by it they will ſee the increaſe or decreaſe not only of the pariſh in general, but of theſe arrangements and eſtates in particular.

Males,	1337
Females,	1370
	2707

There are about four gentlemens seats at present unoccupied; when they are supplied with their respective families and servants, the number in whole may amount to 2800.

Trade and Manufactures.

Bakers,	4	Blacksmiths,	19
Shopkeepers,	14	Tailors,	14
Stocking-weavers,	21	Shoemakers,	22
Colliers,	50	Millers,	6
Masons,	41	Coopers,	6
Weavers,	113	Innkeepers,	20
Joiners,	19		

The weavers are chiefly supplied with business from the manufactures in Glasgow.

There are six corn mills, two lint mills, and one bleachfield.

Four villages are in a thriving state.

Ecclesiastical State.—The Duke of Hamilton is patron. The stipend received no alteration since 1650 till 1781, though the rental of the parish was much more than doubled in that time. It is now 6 chalders and 1 boll of meal, 1 chalder of bear, and L. 46, 18 s. in money.

The church was repaired about 16 years since; the manse lately.

The glebe consists of above 4 acres arable; but is deficient of the legal *quantum* for pasture.

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The incumbent has expended conſiderably upon the manſe and garden, and has lately planted an orchard of a choice collection of fruit-trees, which he hopes will yield a benefit to his ſucceſſors of L. 30 annually.

It is to be wiſhed that ſome general plan was adopted, to put and keep manſes and glebes in proper order Intrants often find all in ruins. Compoſed of the moſt ſuperficial materials, and given to the loweſt undertaker, they need patching every 12 years; whereas, if manſes were made good and ſubſtantial at firſt, they might laſt with little charge for 80 or 100 years, and would be a great ſaving to the landed intereſt.

A houſe of the Relief perſuaſion was built in the year 1763. The congregation is ſupplied from this, and five neighbouring pariſhes.

The ſchool does not accord with the reſpectability of the pariſh, which has long ſuffered for want of a ſufficient ſchoolmaſter. It has checked the genius and improvements of the people. Complaints were numerous. The ſalary * is 100 merks Scots, or L. 5 : 11 : $1\frac{4}{11}$. No addition was aſked, but that the beſt uſe ſhould be made of it. When a vacancy lately took place, the principal heritors required, that an advertiſement ſhould be publiſhed; a comparative trial of candidates taken; and the beſt qualified preferred; that ſo the pariſh might be furniſhed with a man properly accompliſhed for that important truſt. But this moſt equitable meaſure was defeated. A party of portioners, and other heritors, elected one, to whoſe qualifications ſtrong objections were offered. The cauſe has undergone a tedious proceſs, and is yet depending.

* A ſmall ſum, beſides, is appropriated to a ſchool in a diſtant part of the pariſh.

Poor.—The poor are ſupplied from an aſſeſſment, fixed by a meeting of heritors and church-ſeſſion, who meet once in the ſix months, examine the poors roll, and appoint ſuch a ſum to be levied for the enſuing half year, as the ſtate of the poor requires. The landed property pay the one half, and the houſeholders the other. As the pariſh is aſſeſſed, the Sunday collections are ſmall; and are applied to keep the poor rates in moderation, to aid ſuch as have a ſmall allowance, and to keep others off it, by giving them incidental charity. At an average, there are about 25 upon the roll; and the ſum alotted for the current year, is L. 73 : 18 : 8 Sterling.

By the mode of Sundays collections in Scotland, the poor are in general ſupported by the poorer part of ſociety; but a legal aſſeſſment ſecures the contribution of all ranks in the pariſh, ſectariſts, and eſpecially the *opulent proprietors*, whether reſident or not. Its increaſe, however, ought to be jealouſly watched, and as much as poſſible prevented. The following regulations may be of uſe.

To prevent any from ſettling in the pariſh, whoſe circumſtances may ſoon, or immediately, need ſupply; or to have an obligation from the pariſhes whence they come, that they ſhall ſupport them.—Not to raiſe the ſtent upon every exigency, but to make a collection among the heritors, or at the church, for that purpoſe.—Never to ſlacken the hand of induſtry, by giving too early, or too much; for this would render it a nurſery of ſloth and idleneſs. A little exerciſe cheers even the languor of age, and ſweetens both the cup and the reſt of the labouring man. The real circumſtances of every poor perſon ſhould be preciſely known, as repreſentations may be biaſſed by favour or influence; that when application is made, every proper object may have the neceſſary relief, and no part of the public charity ſhall be miſapplied.—To admit no perſon upon

the roll, unleſs an intimation thereof is lodged with the church-ſeſſion ſix weeks before the meeting, that the ſeſſion may inquire into the ſtate of the caſe, and report the ſame to the meeting.

By ſuch proviſions as theſe, the much dreaded evil of poor-rates in this country, may be prevented, and an effectual ſupport for the poor ſecured; vagrant begging ſuppreſſed, and their children educated in knowledge and virtue.

Rent and Incloſures.—The old valuation of the pariſh is L. 7389 : 16 : $0\frac{4}{12}$ Scots.

In 1650, the rental of the pariſh was L. 1950 : 18 : $5\frac{2}{12}$ Sterling. In 1782, L. 4431 : 7 : 4 Sterling. But the real annual value cannot be well aſcertained, as a good deal of the beſt is in the hands of proprietors and portioners. It may amount to between L. 5000 and L. 6000 Sterling.

The croft acres round the two principal villages, are eſtimated at L. 2 yearly. The outfield is from 10 s. to L. 1.

The land is not let by the acre, but at the *ſlump* of the farm, and the accumulated value eſtimated.

The farms are generally ſmall, which is one great cauſe of the increaſe of population. In this reſpect, ſmall farms are public benefits; but large farms, held by wealthy farmers, tend more effectually to advance the value of the ground.

They are commonly from L. 30 to L. 70. Seven about L. 100, and one or two between L. 100 and L. 200.

The rent of farms has been conſiderably increaſed within theſe 20 years, ſome more than doubled.

There are a great many incloſures in the pariſh, conſiſting chiefly of thorns. Theſe around the gentlemens ſeats

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are generally in good order; but ſuch as are in the hands of tenants, are imperfect.

The ſlope hedge, inſtead of being planted upon the top, is very unfavourable; excludes ſun, rain and dew, from the root of the plant; and the breaches of youth continue through age. The nurſing a young hedge requires a good deal of attention; a farmer of ſmall extent grudges the charge. It would be for the intereſt of the proprietor to make ſome allowance, or to divide the expence of rearing the hedges for 7 or 8 years, till they are eſtabliſhed; the farmer being bound to maintain them during his leaſe.

Roads and Bridges.—The pariſh is well appointed in roads. The great road from Glaſgow to Edinburgh, goes through the whole length of the pariſh, as has been already noticed. The road from Glaſgow to Carliſle enters the pariſh on the weſt, a little to the ſouth of the Edinburgh road, by a bridge over the Calder very near to Clyde, goes along the pleaſant banks of the river, paſſeth through the village at the church, and croſſes the Clyde at Bothwell bridge. The mail coach goes the ſame courſe twice a-day.

There are ſeveral ſections from the Edinburgh road, croſſing the pariſh in different places; three leading to Hamilton, one to Lanark, and two to Airdrie, in good order. Beſides theſe, there are many croſs roads, made and repaired by the ſtatute-work. It is converted at the rate of 15s. *per* plough-gate; the annual amount is L. 80 : 8 : 9½. The turnpike and ſtatute roads put together, amount to about 50 miles; 22 of which are good turnpike,—a proviſion rarely to be found in one pariſh, but which muſt facilitate the improvement, and enhance the value of the landed property.

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The principal bridges are, *Bothwell bridge*, over the Clyde, of four arches, which is old, upon a narrow ſcale, and is propoſed to be rebuilt upon a larger plan, which will be a great improvement to this part of the country. There are two bridges over North Calder, on the weſt corner, where the Edinburgh and Carliſle roads enter the pariſh, and other two over the ſame water, on the roads to Airdrie. Three are upon the South Calder; one of them is upon the road to Lanark, lately built, and in good condition.

Price of Labour and Proviſions.—The price of labour here, as in the neighbourhood of Glaſgow, has been within theſe ſeven years conſiderably advanced. A principal ploughman, or man-ſervant, is from L. 10 to L. 12, with his board; a young man, next to him, who drives the plough, and works with him, is from L. 5 to L. 8; a maid-ſervant in the houſe, from L. 3 to L. 4 or L. 5; a common day labourer, formerly 10 d. or 1 s. is now 1 s. 4 d.; in hay-time, 1 s. 8 d. or 2 s.; the women 8 d.; a houſe-carpenter 1 s. 6 d. or 1 s. 8 d.; a maſon 1 s. 8 d. and 1 s. 10 d.; a tailor 1 s. with board.

The advance of wages is ſeverely felt by the ſmall farmer. But his acting the principal part himſelf, till his children grow up to aſſiſt him, is a conſiderable ſaving.

Hamilton being ſo near is reſorted to for butcher-meat. Glaſgow regulates the price of grain. The produce of the dairy is generally carried there; and poultry is often dearer here than at that town, being carried thither in hopes of a higher price.

Agriculture.—The principal buſineſs of the pariſh is agriculture. It is purſued with great diligence, and according to the reſpective abilities of the farmer. It has received

received a conſiderable improvement within theſe 20 years. The outfield was frequently ploughed, but the crop not worth the labour; now every pendicle is attended to, and exhibits, when the ſeaſon is favourable, tolerable good culture. It is not long ſince they diſcovered the happy effects of lime on the ſtrong clay. It is now very generally uſed; and when judiciouſly applied, produces very good crops. It is brought from the lime-works in burnt ſhells, and laid on at the proportion of from 50 to 100 bolls *per* acre. To do the field juſtice, it will take 100 bolls to each acre. The boll is 7 d. at the kiln, and conſiſts of the wheat firlot, or Wincheſter buſhel. They have ſtrictly no regular rotation. The uſual one is ſummer-fallow, with lime and dung; firſt year wheat; 2d peaſe; 3d oats, ſown with graſs, cut one year or two, and paſtured as many; or, inſtead of oats, the 3d year barley, prepared with frequent ploughing and dung, and laid down with graſs-ſeeds, which is a courſe more favourable to the ground.

As it is but a ſmall part of the farm that a ſufficient quantity of dung can be procured to prepare for wheat, other parts are limed on the paſture, two or three crops taken, and laid down in graſs; a green crop generally ſucceeding oats.

The introduction of wheat has been attended with one good circumſtance, the cultivating, or *bringing in*, as it may well be termed, of that poor ejected alien, the *outfield*; for the ſummer-fallow is frequently applied there, and being furniſhed with lime and dung, a pretty good crop of wheat is produced, with one of peaſe, and another of oats. By repeated applications of this nature to the outfield, it has made very grateful returns, producing a crop of wheat from 7 to 10 bolls an acre, with two more proportionably fertile.

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By this attention to the *outfield*, it is obſerved, that the *croft* has failed for ſome years of the great crops it uſed to produce, owing to the farmer carrying all the dung and manure he can procure to his wheat-land, as he chiefly depends upon that crop for his rent.

Barley, for the ſame reaſon, is now leſs cultivated, as it interferes with the manure of the wheat; and, on account of the binding quality of the clay, it will not grow, unleſs it be cheriſhed with refreſhing ſhowers ſoon after it is ſown; for this cauſe, it is judged a precarious crop.

Beans, mixed with peaſe, uſed to be raiſed from the croft ground in great abundance. But in bad harveſts, it is extremely difficult to get them timely dried and ſlacked, without which they are in a great meaſure loſt. So that wheat, oats, and hay, are likely to be cultivated as the ſureſt crops.

Potatoes are planted by every farmer, but chiefly for private uſe. Tradeſmen depend much upon that valuable root. The hard ſoil is not ſo favourable as a tender and quick ſoil for that crop.

The clay is equally unfriendly to flax; and no more of it is ſown than is neceſſary for the uſe of each family.

They ſow in March, or as ſoon as the ſeaſon will permit, and the ſoil is ſo dry as to admit them to go upon the fields.

Their harveſt is earlier than ſome of their neighbours; eſpecially that part of the pariſh which lies toward Clyde.

After all the manure that can be applied, the goodneſs of crops in this pariſh depends particularly upon the ſeaſon. From its declining attitude to the ſouth, but eſpecially from the ſtiffneſs of the clay, it needs frequent ſhowers, firſt in the ſpring, to bring the grain equally through the hard ſoil; and then a regular ſucceſſion of ſhowers to diſſolve the clay, elſe it forms an impenetrable cement, excluding

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all dew and moiſture from the root of the plant. But when the ground is in pretty good order, and is favoured with frequent rains, it never fails to produce excellent crops. This is ſo remarkable, that the crop about the village of Bothwell is looked to by the inhabitants of the mooriſh part of the country as the index of the ſeaſon; and when it is very luxuriant, they conſider it as a certain ſignal that a greater quantity of rain has fallen, than ſuits their ſituation.

As a proof of what returns the beſt ſoil will yield, theſe are atteſted by credible authors, who both ſowed and reaped the field. In ſome places the crop has amounted to 15 bolls of oats *per* acre; one acre of the glebe produced, 30 years ſince, 18 bolls of beans; and one in the holms yielded above 20 bolls of wheat, or 80 Wincheſter buſhels. They were doubtleſs in high cultivation.

The grain is of a ſuperior quality. The converſion at the mill is little ſhort of meal for oats. It is purchaſed for ſeed by other parts of the country. The Scots plough, upon a lighter plan, with three horſes, is generally uſed.

There is excellent butter and cheeſe made in the pariſh; but the dairy is not carried to any great extent, owing to the ſmall farms, and the little portion allotted for paſture, they depending chiefly upon the arable crops for their profits.

The number of milk-cows are in proportion to the ſize of the farm, and will be from 6 to 12, or 14. They rear their black cattle and ſome horſes, both of which are generally of a good breed.

It is expected, that here, and in other parts of the country, a more favourable rotation will take place. Inſtead of that ruinous practice of conſtant ploughing and ſcourging the ſoil, equally impoveriſhing the tenant and the farm, more will be allowed to graſs, and leſs ploughed. The exceſſive

exceſſive rate of labour and wages, and the advanced price of hay and graſs, it is hoped will produce this moſt deſirable improvement.

This pariſh poſſeſſes peculiar advantages for improvements, in the ſtrong fertile nature of its ſoil; in the happy ſituation of its farms and fields; in its vicinity to Glaſgow, Hamilton and Airdrie; in the ſtore of coal; in every eſtate being watered by the Calders, or the Clyde, and adapted to the purpoſes of machineries and manufactures; and in the high degree of cultivation it has already attained. Upon theſe accounts, landed property here is of a ſuperior value; and when agriculture ſhall be proſecuted with greater vigour, this pariſh muſt ſtill hold the very firſt place in the county.—*Vid. Means of Improvement.*

Quarries and Minerals.—The pariſh abounds in freeſtone. The quarries toward Clyde are of a red colour, ſome of a ſmooth ſurface, and very durable. In the upper part of the pariſh are ſeveral free quarries, of a beautiful white; and the houſes of the new villages are all neat, and well built.

There is an excellent going coal in Woodhall-lands. The price at the pit is 2 s. 9 d. Sterling *per* ton. The lands of Stevenſton, Olelano, and Jerviſton, have alſo coal. The price was lately conſiderably advanced, but is again ſomewhat reduced. The chief conſumption is in the pariſh and neighbourhood.

Limeſtone is not found in the pariſh; it is brought from Hamilton and Kilbride, at the diſtance of ſix miles.

Language, Dreſs, Manners.—The language ſpoken here is Engliſh, with the Scotch dialect.

Like their neighbours, within theſe 20 years, they are much improven in their dreſs. The women wear a black

ſilk cloak and hat; the men appear in Engliſh cloth and a hat. Their appearance in public and at church is decent and elegant; but this taſte for ſhew and finery, is at once the cauſe of their demand of high wages, and why ſo little more of their earning is allowed to accumulate than formerly, when they had ſcarcely more than the half of their preſent allowance

In general, the farmers are an induſtrious, ſober, and virtuous people; regular in their attendance upon public worſhip; juſt, charitable, and humane; conſtantly engaged in the culture of their fields, they are happily removed from the arts of circumvention to acquire wealth; or thoſe of diſſipation to obtain licentious pleaſure.

The firſt day of the new year is their only holiday, which they ſpend in friendly viſits and mutual congratulations. Curling is their chief amuſement in winter. Their weddings are celebrated with a decent cheerfulneſs. After partaking of a plentiful entertainment, the evening is ſpent in feſtive mirth and the ſocial dance.

Rivers.—The only river is the Clyde, which waters the pariſh along the ſouth ſide, in a gentle declivity, with beautiful windings, and here and there ſhallows, for the ſpace of three or four miles. It is ſtored with trout and ſalmon, which are taken with the rod or net. At the end of harveſt, and ſometimes in winter, it overflows the holms or low grounds; but the experience they have had warns them timely to remove the crop out of danger.

The water of *North Calder* riſes from the Black Loch in the pariſh of Eaſt Monkland, and continues its courſe weſtward for about 15 miles, till it falls into Clyde, at the bridge above mentioned; and for 7 or 8 miles ſeparates the pariſh from the Eaſt and Weſt Monklands.

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The water of South Calder riſes from ſeveral marſhes and ſens in the pariſhes of Shotts and Cambuſnethan, and having continued its courſe for 15 miles, falls into the Clyde a little below Orbieſton.

They are generally ſhallow in ſummer; but in winter and rainy ſeaſons, they pour a great quantity of water into Clyde.

The ſtream of the North Calder is conſiderably leſſened by the water being taken into the Monkland Canal at Woodhall.

Theſe two waters are chiefly diſtinguiſhed for the romantic ſcenery of their banks; upon which account, all the gentlemen who live in that part of the country, have placed their ſeats upon the banks of the one or other of theſe two Calders.

There are no lakes in the pariſh.

Eminent Men.—Notwithſtanding the adverſe plan of education in the pariſh, the following may be named under this claſs, who owed their riſe to more favourable ſeminaries:

Two ſons of the Rev. Mr William Hamilton, Meſſrs Robert and Thomas, ſucceeded each other as Profeſſors of Anatomy in the College of Glaſgow.

The laſt was ſucceeded by his only ſon, Mr William Hamilton; a young gentleman, who, by his diſtinguiſhed abilities, and indefatigable application, ſoon acquired a very high degree of fame in his profeſſion. He died in early life; his loſs was deeply felt, and univerſally regretted. His feeling heart, and gentleneſs of manners; his endearing ſympathy with the diſtreſſed, almoſt ſoothing away pain; his rare and amiable virtues, will long live in the memory of his friends, and in a very extenſive circle of ſociety.

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In this liſt muſt be included the late Daniel Campbell, Eſq; of Shawfield, brother to the preſent proprietor.

He was one of the moſt accompliſhed gentlemen his country has produced. Nature was liberal to him of her choiceſt gifts: Taſte and elegance ſeemed natural to him: He poſſeſſed the graces in perfection: The fine arts were his favourite amuſements. He ſat in two Parliaments, and gave ſuch proofs as declared him qualified to have made an eminent figure in the Britiſh Senate. Above all, the ineffable ſweetneſs, the flowing ſenſibilities of his heart, enhanced every accompliſhment, gave a charming luſtre to the whole man, and rendered him at once admired and beloved by all who knew him.

To theſe may well be added Mr William Aiton, author of *Hortus Kewenſis*, 3 vols. He was a native of this pariſh, educated under the friendly ſhade of the laſt gentleman's family. He went to England in 1754. In 1759 he was pointed out to the Princeſs Dowager of Wales and his preſent Majeſty, as a man beſt qualified to form a botanical garden at Kew. Under their encouragement, he ſtudied and laboured for 34 years, collecting from every corner of Britain, and the remoteſt climes, every rare and valuable production of the vegetable creation.

How far he ſucceeded in a taſk ſo arduous and laudable, the preſent highly finiſhed ſtate of that place, the unanimous approbation of the beſt judges of the botanical ſcience, and the accurate deſcription given by himſelf, are, and it is hoped ſhall continue to be the moſt ample teſtimonies for ages.

In him the gentleman and the Chriſtian were happily united. By his patronage, multitudes with their families are now comfortably ſettled in the world. Placed in the higheſt ſphere of his employment, he acquired the approbation of all ranks. He was honoured with very particu-

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lar marks of the bounty and favour of our moſt *amiable Sovereign.* His name and fame extended to every quarter of the globe; proved paſſports to diſtant kingdoms; and his recommendations were ſufficient introductions to men of ſcience in foreign Courts.

He might be called the *Scotch Linnæus,* from whom the *younger Linnæus* received no ſmall improvement. What an honour to his country, and what praiſe is due to ſuch eminent virtue! He died at Kew, Feb. 19. 1793. His ſon ſucceeded to his charge *.

Antiquities.—The caſtle of Bothwell † is a very ancient and noble ſtructure. In its decayed ſtate it exhibits ſome ſtriking remains of its former ſplendor, and is, perhaps, the moſt magnificent ruin in Scotland. The work is all done with poliſhed ſtone, of a red colour; the apartments very lofty. What of it remains occupies a ſpace in length 234 feet, and in breadth 99 feet over the walls. The lodgings are confined to the eaſt and weſt ends, and many of them ſufficiently diſtinguiſhed. The chapel is marked with a number of ſmall windows, and like a chamber of ſtate off it, with two large windows to the ſouth. The old well in the corner of one of the towers, penetrating through the rock

* Funeral Sermon by Smith, Camberwell. Monthly Review of ſaid Sermon, May 1793. "*We who knew the man* have good reaſon to be-"lieve, that the teſtimony here borne to his worth, his genuine piety, "his exemplary morality, and his extenſive benevolence, is no more "than his juſt due. Real merit is ſometimes exaggerated in funeral pa-"negyrics; but this is not the caſe in the preſent inſtance."

† The Caſtle of Bothwell and the Provoſtry once made a conſpicuous figure in the pariſh, and in the hiſtory of Scotland. The firſt is ſtill viſited by the curious, and admired in its ruins. As there is nothing publiſhed reſpecting them, theſe few hints have been procured with ſome pains.

rock to a good ſpring, was diſcovered a few years ſince. The ſtair of one of the higheſt towers is almoſt entire to the top, which preſents an immenſe height above the river. The court in the middle was probably deſigned to contain their cattle and proviſions in caſe of an aſſault, an arrangement peculiar to many ancient caſtles. The entry is on the north, about the middle of the wall. Veſtiges of the foſſe are yet viſible. It appears to have been built and enlarged at different times, and by the ſeveral proprietors who occupied it.

The following is a conciſe ſtatement of the various lords or maſters it had received in the viciſſitudes of fortune:

" It was anciently poſſeſſed by the Murrays *. But in the time of King Edward I. it was given to Aymer de Valance † Earl of Pembroke, Governor for him of the ſouth part of Scotland. Upon his forfeiture, it was given by King Robert Bruce to Andrew Murray, Lord Bothwell, who married Chriſtian, ſiſter to that King. With his grand-daughter it came to Archibald the Grim, Earl of Douglas, by marriage, and continued in their family till their forfeiture by King James II. 1455. After the forfeiture

* M. S. Mr Hamilton of Wiſhaw, Advocates Library.

† 1307. Earl Pembroke having the command of the Engliſh army, challenged Bruce to fight him at the bottom of Loudon Hill. He accepted, and defeated him. The Earl retreated to *Bothwell Caſtle*. GUTH.

1336. Edward III. publiſhed writs, dated from the *Caſtle of Bothwell*, ordering his Parliament to aſſemble, and concert the proper means of defending his kingdom againſt the Scots, and commanding his admirals to oppoſe the French fleet; putting them in mind that his progenitors were always maſters at ſea. Theſe papers, written at Bothwell, are copied in Rymer's Fœd. vol. 4. p. 722.

1337. 6th March. Scots beſiege *Bothwell Caſtle*, took it by ſtorm from the Engliſh, and level it to the ground. GUTH.

feiture of the family of Douglas, the bulk of the lordſhip of Bothwell was given to Lord Crighton, ſon to Chancellor Crighton; and Bothwell foreſt, or Bothwell moor, was given to Lord Hamilton, in exchange of the lands of Kingſwell.

Crighton was forfeited in 1485, for joining with Alexander Duke of Albany againſt King James III. It was then given by King James III. to the Lord Monipenny, from whom it was ſoon retaken, as having been given by the King in his minority; and was thereafter given by him to John Ramſay his favourite, who enjoyed it till the 1488, when he was forfeited for counterfeiting a commiſſion under the great ſeal to the Earl of Northumberland; then the lordſhip of Crighton was gifted by King James IV. to Adam Hepburn Lord Hailles, whom he created Earl of Bothwell. It continued in his line till November 1567, when James Earl of Bothwell was forfeited for the murder of Henry, father to King James VI. Thereafter it was given by that King to Francis Stewart, ſon of John Abbot of Kelſo, who was natural ſon to King James V.; and he being forfeited for crimes committed againſt James VI. his eſtate was gifted to the Lairds of Buccleugh and Roxburgh, from whom the Marquis of Hamilton acquired all the ſuperiority and patronage of that lordſhip.

The property, which was leſs than the 3d of the lordſhip, with the Caſtle of Bothwell, having been diſponed by Hepburn, Earl of Bothwell, to the Earl of Angus, in exchange of the lordſhip of Liddiſdale.

The ſaid William Earl of Angus, and Archibald his ſon, in 1630, or thereby, did feu the 3d part of the lordſhip to the particular tenants and poſſeſſors thereof, without diminution of the old rent, and reſerving the Caſtle and Mains of Bothwell. It was given off as a patrimonial portion with the Earl of Forfar, but is again returned to the

the family of Douglas by the death of Archibald Earl of Forfar, who died at Stirling of his wounds received at Sherriſmuir, in the year 1715."

The above account is confirmed by this circumſtance, that the different parts of the edifice retained each the name of the builder; ſuch as *Valence* tower, *Douglas* tower*, *Hamilton* tower, and the *Cuming* tower; and ſome are ſtill known by them. The Douglas family had exceedingly enlarged and improved it; their arms were found in different places of the wall. It is impoſſible to form a juſt idea of its former greatneſs, as it is ſaid that a great deal of it was taken down by the Earl of Forfar, out of which he built a modern houſe.

There is this peculiar to that ſuperb ſtructure, that all the neighbouring objects are in a great ſtyle. The Clyde makes a fine circle round the Caſtle; the breadth of the river is conſiderable; the ſtreams ſpread over a plain rocky bottom; the banks, on both ſides, are very high, and adorned with natural wood. The Craig of Blantyre, with the ruins of the old houſe of the Priors upon the top of it, immediately oppoſite, has a ſtriking effect; while this noble monument of ancient grandeur extends along the ſummit of the north bank, with a bold aſpect to the ſouth, at both ends rears its lofty towers, and dignifies the whole ſcene†.

Bothwell

* James, Lord Hamilton, married Eupham Graham, daughter of the Earl of Strathern, and ſecond wife and widow of Archibald the 5th Earl of Douglas; and, in her right, was in poſſeſſion of a conſiderable part of the lordſhip and barony of Bothwell. Crawford.

† See Buildings. Bothwell Houſe.

Bothwell Church.—Bothwell church, or quire, is an old ſtructure, in the Gothic ſtyle, of excellent workmanſhip, 70 feet in length over the walls, and 39 in breadth. It is ſtill entire, and uſed for public worſhip; only the portico, at the weſt end, was taken down 1719, to admit of a modern addition, to accommodate the congregation. The roof is arched and lofty, and from within makes a very fine appearance. It is lighted with a tire of large windows on each ſide, and a great window in the eaſt end; in the upper part of which the Douglas arms are cut, and at the ſouth corner of the window, within and without, quartered in ſtone with the Royal arms, probably pointing to the Earl of Douglas's marriage with King Robert's granddaughter. The Hamilton arms are engraved in the centre of the arch, which ſupports what is called the organ loft. The arched roof is covered with large poliſhed flags of ſtone, ſomewhat in the form of pan-tiles. The whole edifice is compoſed of ſtone, ſtrengthened by pilaſters, to ſupport the weight of the roof. There are no ornaments or inſcriptions; but near the outer baſe of the ſpire, the name of the maſter-maſon is written in Saxon characters,

Magiſter Thomas Tron.

A cell is placed upon the back wall, which enters from within, where the font baſon, of ſtone, built in the wall, and the ſtone pitcher, ſtanding in the middle of the paved vault, are yet complete.

In the two eaſt corners of the church, are two ſepulchral monuments of the Earl of Forfar and ſon.

Proboſtry, or Collegiate Church of Bothwell.—The collegiate church of Bothwell * was founded 10th of October 1398,

* It was before a cloiſter of nuns. Spotſwood's Appendix.

1398, by Archibald the grim Earl of Douglas, for a Provoſt and eight prebendaries; to which he grants the lands or Oſberington, or Orbiſton, in his barony of Bothwell, and the lands of Netherurd, and mill thereof, in the ſheriffdom of Peebles, *in perpetuam eleemoſinam.*

The endowment of the church was very great; for beſides theſe lands, there was given them a right to all the tithes of Bothwell and Bartrom, Shotts, Avendale, and Stonehouſe pariſhes, and ſeveral ſuperiorities. Moſt of theſe ſuperiorities, with part of the property, and whole tithes, belong now to the Duke of Hamilton, who is both patron and titular.

The Noble founder died in the 1400; and, as tradition has it, is buried with his Lady, under a large marble ſtone in the eaſt end of the ſaid quire. In the year 1400, David Prince of Scotland was married to Marjory Douglas, daughter to Archibald, the grim Earl of Douglas, in the church of Bothwell.

The prebendaries had each a houſe and yard, round the church. The houſes are demoliſhed, but the yards retain the names of Vicar yard, Prebend yards. The Provoſt of Bothwell had a vicar at St Catherine's Chapel, for ſerving the upper part of the pariſh, now called the Shotts. But after the Reformation, it was divided into two pariſhes.

Provoſts and Miniſters of Bothwell.—The firſt Provoſt was Thomas Varoye or Barry. He was born in the reign of King David II and probably died toward the beginning of the reign of Robert III. He wrote a poem on the battle of Otterburn, fought 5th of Auguſt 1388.

The next Provoſt was William Foulis, deſigned, *Cuſtos privati ſigilli, et Præpoſitus de Bothwell*, by King James I. 23d year of his reign.—His ſucceſſor was *William Pont.* He was keeper of the privy ſeal, and is a witneſs with John

John Biſhop of Glaſgow, and others, to a charter of King James I. at Edinburgh 24th May, 24th year of King James's reign.—He was ſucceeded by *Dr John Ralſton*, a younger ſon of the family of Ralſton in Renfrewſhire, in the reign of King James I. From being parſon of Cambuſlang, he was promoted to the provoſtſhip of Bothwell, both being in the gift of Archibald Earl of Douglas; ſo deſigned in a charter October 24. 1426. Was afterwards *Dean* of Dunkeld; *Secretary* to King James II.; *Biſhop of Dunkeld*, in 1448; Lord High Treaſurer in 1449; died in 1452.—Gavin Hamilton occurs next, a ſon of the firſt Lord Hamilton. He accompanied his father to Rome, where he went to get his foundation of the collegiate church of Hamilton ratified by the Pope's bull. He took orders when advanced in life, became Provoſt of the collegiate church of Bothwell, of the Earl of Douglas's patronage, and is in that office 1450.

George Hepburn, a ſon of Adam ſecond Lord Hailes, was made Provoſt of the collegiate church of Bothwell 1493. He was afterwards Lord High Treaſurer of Scotland, Biſhop of the Iſles, and ſlain, with King James IV. at the battle of Flowden, 1513.

James Bethune was Provoſt of Bothwell 1503, afterwards Archbiſhop of St Andrew's.

Alexander Hepburn was Provoſt of Bothwell 1527, obtained a charter of the lands of Kettleſtown, in the pariſh and county of Linlithgow, under that deſignation.

Miniſters ſince the Reformation 1560.

Mr John Hamilton, miniſter of Bothwell 1574; his ſtipend the haill provoſtry of Bothwell, lately diſponed *.

Mr

* Regiſter of aſſignations of the miniſter's ſtipend, M. S. Advocates Library.

Mr Gavin Hamilton, miniſter, 1604.
Mr Robert Boyd, miniſter, 1618 and 1635.
Mr Matthew Mackell, miniſter, 1650, outed at the Reſtoration of Charles II.

Epiſcopal Miniſters after the Reſtoration.

Mr John Carſtairs, 1660.
Dr Robert Douglas, afterwards Biſhop of Dumblane, deprived at the Revolution.
Mr Alexander Kinneir, 1681.
Mr Thomas Hamilton.
Mr Robert Douglas, ſon to the former, and miniſter here at the Revolution.

After the Revolution.

Mr John Orr, tranſlated to Edinburgh.
Mr William Hamilton, ordained 1709.
Mr James Hamilton, his ſon, ordained 1746.
Dr James Baillie, 1762; afterwards Profeſſor of Divinity, Glaſgow.
The incumbent.

Battle of Bothwell Bridge.—The ſouth ſide of this bridge was the ſcene of an engagement in the reign of Charles II. 1679, between the whigs or covenanters, and the King's army, commanded by the Duke of Monmouth. The King's army advanced by the north, or Bothwell ſide. The covenanters, divided among themſelves, were ſoon thrown into confuſion; 400 were killed, chiefly in the purſuit, and 1200 taken priſoners. It is ſaid that they did not expect to fight, being miſinformed that the Duke was ordered to obſerve pacific meaſures. It is told by the hiſtorians of thoſe times.

Bothwell Haugh—lies about a mile above the bridge, was formerly the property of James Hamilton of Bothwell-haugh, who (23d January 1570) ſhot the Earl of Murray, regent, at Linlithgow. He eſcaped to Hamilton, and from thence to France*.

About a quarter of a mile eaſt from this, there is a bridge over the South Calder, judged to be of Roman conſtruction; of one arch, high, very narrow, and without ledges. The Roman road called *Watling-ſtreet*, one of the four† famous ways that the Romans anciently made in Britain, was a few years ago in entire preſervation, leading to it from the eaſt, through Dalziel pariſh; but it is now ſcarce diſcernible, being removed by the courſe of the plough.

A mile above this, upon the banks of the ſame water, there is a quarry of the fineſt millſtones in the weſt of Scotland. They are ſent for from Carron, and other diſtant parts of the country.

Three miles higher, upon the north bank of the Calder, in the middle of the ſteep rock upon which the houſe of Cleland ſtands, is a large *natural cove*, which had been partly improven by art, capable of holding 40 or 50 men, of difficult acceſs. The entry was ſecured by a door and an iron gate, fixed in the ſolid rock; the fire-place, and part of the chimney and floor, ſtill remain. The tradition is, that it had been uſed as a place of concealment in the troubleſome

* De Thou writes, that he was ſolicited to aſſaſſinate the great Admiral Coligini, but refuſed.

† Ikenild Street, Foſs, Ermin Street, and *Watling Street*; ſo called from one Vitellianus, ſuppoſed to have ſuperintended the direction of it; the Britons calling Vitellianus, in their language, Guetalin.

Camb. Brit.

troubleſome times of the country, as far back as the gallant patriot Sir William Wallace; perhaps by the hero himſelf, and his truſty band: Alſo during the violent feuds between the houſe of Cleland and Lauchope; and eſpecially in the convulſions of this country under the Charles's.

It is an inſtructive monument of the happy difference between the ſtate of our anceſtors and our preſent ſituation, where tranquillity and ſecurity are inſcribed upon all our habitations, from the princely dome to the humbleſt cottage.

About 70 years ago, a little after the acceſſion of the preſent Royal Family, when their mild and gentle ſpirit began to be univerſally felt, the iron gate was taken down, the hinges torn from the rock, and, it is hoped, will never need to be repaired again.

Paſſing to the North Calder, the next object which attracts notice is the houſe of *Lauchope*. It was the ſeat of a very ancient family, the mother-family and chief of the Muirheads. It is an old tower-houſe, the walls of a prodigious thickneſs; part of it fell lately, and part is ſtill inhabited. It has gone through ſeveral hands.

Chapel,—north-eaſt from Lauchope, was formerly a religious houſe, of what order is not known.

Temple Lands.—The lands of Greenſide and Shirrel, were of this deſcription.

Seats, — Buildings.

The principal are,——

The houſe of *Bothwell*, lately built, and the reſidence of Lord Douglas. It is a handſome edifice, ſtands a little eaſt from

from the old caſtle, and at once commands the charming group of beauties, ariſing from the banks, the river, the ruins, and the adjacent country. The apartments, like the great objects that ſurround them, are marked with a dignified ſimplicity. The banks are broad and extenſive; exhibit a very pictureſque ſcene; have been much improved of late, with pleaſure walks, huts and ſhrubbery. The walk from the houſe, along the ſummit of the bank, and round the ruins, is moſt delightful. Nature is truly Great; her ſteps are carefully followed, and a good taſte diſcovered. A grove of oaks occupies one part of the banks, already conſiderably advanced, and will make a venerable figure in future times. The park is incloſed with a remarkably good wall. There are few places more favoured from ſituation, or capable of greater embelliſhment.

The firſt who had the merit to diſcern the beauties of theſe banks, even in their rude ſtate, covered with natural wood, and to plan and commence improvements, was the late Lady Lucy Douglas*.

With the fineſt moral feelings of the heart, ſhe poſſeſſed a well-cultivated mind, and a correct taſte. By arranging theſe natural beauties, with the aid of her huſband, ſhe produced a paradiſe. Here ſhe ſpent her leiſure hours, forgot the world, converſed with Nature, and its great Author; and participated in thoſe pleaſures which were pure, ſerene, and congenial to her own mind.

"Qui fait aimer les Champs, fait aimer la Vertu."

DELILLE.

Woodhall,

* Firſt Lady of Lord Douglas, and ſiſter to the preſent Duke of Montroſe.

Woodhall,—the ſeat of Walter Campbell, Eſq; of Shawfield. It is ſituated on the banks of the water of North Calder, about five miles north-eaſt from the church. The houſe is large, with ſome noble apartments, and a good library. The incloſures and plantations are numerous and extenſive. Two avenues from the great road to Edinburgh, from the eaſt and weſt, each about a mile and a half in length, paſſing through belvideres and ſunk fences, form a fine approach. It has lately received a complete melioration from the preſent proprietor. A beautiful piece of water has been formed, upon the banks of which modern gardens, peach houſe, vineries, and orangery, are built to a great extent. Pleaſure-walks are made along the banks of the Calder, and both ſides ornamented with planting. The Monkland canal adds to the ſcenery, and will advance the value of the coal in the eſtate. The fields have been laid down in great order; plantations thinned; fine viſtas opened; and a more elegant and cheerful aſpect given to the whole. Few places in the weſt of Scotland are upon a more liberal ſcale; few gentlemen underſtand the improvements and intereſts of their country better than the proprietor, or have done more than he upon his ſeveral ſeats.

Miſcellaneous Remarks.—Beauty of Clydeſdale, or Fine Proſpects.—There are many of theſe in the pariſh. One is, the view from the weſt point of the village of Uddingſton, down the river. It terminates upon *Daldowie*, where nature, aided by an excellent taſte, has formed one of the moſt beautiful places upon Clyde.

But there is another proſpect which merits particular notice. It is the eaſt brow of the hill, upon which the village of Bothwell ſtands. This ſeems to be the great promontory which nature has erected to contemplate the beau-

ties

ties of the *Vale of Clyde*. There are none in the central line of the river above this; and after it quits this pariſh, it loſes its noble woody banks, and generally falls into a flatneſs on both ſides.

This eminence commands the moſt rich and pleaſant proſpect of an inland kind in Scotland. It would require the pen of a Thomſon to do it juſtice.

On the right hand, and ſouth ſide of the river, the reſidence of the Duke of Hamilton, called the Palace, Chatelherault, and the town, appear juſt under the eye, amidſt extenſive pleaſure-grounds, which may vie with many of the fineſt places in England. A little above this, the vale is contracted, the banks are wide and deep, with a gradual declivity on both ſides, which are occupied by gentlemens ſeats, highly cultivated and embelliſhed. Woods and plantations ſtretch along the banks. Numerous orchards are interſperſed through the groves. Theſe, in the ſpring, give a great part of the vale an Italian aſpect, or rather,

—— "The bloom of blowing Eden fair."

In autumn they are richly loaded with fruits, and may be called the Garden of Scotland. Beautiful meadows covered with flocks, and rich fields of corn, adorn the holms and plains. Nature diſpenſes her pleaſures with a liberal hand. Hill and dale, wood and water, are finely blended together. So great a collection of rural charms, variety of ſcenery, exquiſite arrangement, and vaſt extent, render the whole moſt enchanting. The river, with its purling ſtreams and meanders, diffuſes fertility and beauty through all the vale, while villa ſucceeds villa, with their reſpective improvements, as far as the eye can reach, till the proſpect, or ſtretch of 24 miles, terminates upon Tintoc. Twice every day the ſcene is highly adorned; in the morning, when the ſun aſcends above the noble mountain of Tintoc, and

gilds the whole vale, and when he reviſits it from the oppoſite point in the evening.

It is a proof of a moſt gracious Providence, that the nobleſt pleaſures are laid open to all. It is uſual for the villager, in ſummer, on his great day of reſt, Sunday, morning or evening, to walk out with his Bible, and repoſe himſelf on this great ſofa of nature.

With luxuriant crops at his feet, under the covert of orchards behind, and this tranſporting entertainment before him, he forgets his weekly toils, reads the beatitudes, claims an intereſt in the very firſt;

—— " And feels an inward bliſs
" Spring o'er his mind, beyond the power of Kings
" To purchaſe.'

The beauties of Bothwell banks were celebrated in *ancient ſong*, of which the following *incident* is a ſtriking proof:

" So fell it out of late years *, that an Engliſh gentleman, travelling in Paleſtine, not far from Jeruſalem, as he paſſed through a country town, he heard by chance a woman ſitting at the door, dandling her child, to ſing,

" Bothwell Bank, thou bloomeſt fair."

" The gentleman hereat exceedingly wondered, and forthwith in Engliſh ſaluted the woman, who joyfully anſwered him, and ſaid, She was right glad there to ſee a gentlemen of our iſle; and told him, that ſhe was a Scotch woman, and came firſt from Scotland to Venice, and from Venice thither; where her fortune was to be the wife of an officer under the Turk, who being at that inſtant abſent, and very

* Verſtigan, in his Reſtitution of Decayed Intelligence, Antwerp, 1605. chap. of the Sirnames of our Ancient Families.

very ſoon to return, ſhe intreated the gentleman to ſtay there until his return; the which he did; and ſhe, for country ſake, to ſhew herſelf more kind and bountiful unto him, told her huſband at his home-coming, that the gentleman was her kinſman; whereupon her huſband entertained him very kindly, and at his departure gave him divers things of good value."

In confirmation of this account of the view, a good part of theſe banks is now occupied by two gentlemens ſeats, Sweethope and Bothwell Park. They are both elegant, ſet down on account of the proſpect, and both enjoy it in perfection.

A new line of road is formed from Hamilton to Lanark, along the ſouth banks of the Clyde, and through the whole length of the vale; it is juſt finiſhed, and makes one of the moſt pleaſant rides in Scotland.

Means of Improvement.—One principal object is the communication of a greater meaſure of uſeful knowledge to the great body of the community. Parochial ſchools in general are not ſupplied with ſuch able teachers as they were 50 years ago, owing probably to this, that they who have got a good education, find a more generous encouragement from the manufacturing or commercial departments, which formerly were upon a ſmall ſcale in this country.

Parochial and public ſchools ſhould be eſpecially directed,

1*ſt*, To the inſtilling of *virtuous principles*; teaching the youth an abridgment of the Chriſtian religion; its inconteſtible evidence; its incomparable excellence, as ſecuring the quiet, order, and dignity both of the individual and the community.

The great deſign of education is, to form the mind to the love and practice of virtue. How mournful is it to obſerve, that this important object ſeems forgotten, if not

expelled from the modern plan of education. A ſyſtem of religion and virtue, or any book relating to the Scriptures, is not taught in the higher or lower ſeminaries of learning; a few queſtions of a Catechiſm are got by rote, after the alphabet, and ſeldom repeated, as if it were an inſult to an advanced underſtanding. This may juſtly be conſidered as the great cauſe of the *immorality of the age*. When a youth is ſent abroad into the world, without a rational perſuaſion of the importance of religion; of his obligations to virtue; deſtitute of one argument to defend himſelf againſt the attacks of its adverſaries, what can be expected, but that he will fall an eaſy prey to the allurements of vice. Hence, in high life, infidelity and impiety; in lower ranks, miſtaken views of religion, bigotry and ſuperſtition, inſtead of the weightier matters of the law.

What a reproach to this age, with all its boaſted improvements in arts, in philoſophy, and under the laſt diſpenſation of Heaven, to be outdone by ancient heathens in their plan of education. They taught their youth deeds, and not words: they enforced juſtice, generoſity, magnanimity, all the virtues. Hence the illuſtrious characters they reared in all ſtations and capacities, hitherto, alas! unequalled in any ſucceeding age.

Quid muſæ ſine moribus vanæ proficiant?

If ever a *reformation* takes place, it muſt be by *a virtuous education* of youth. Laws may ſecure external order, but can never *amend the heart* *.

Since writing the above, the laſt General Aſſembly (1794) have enjoined, that a more particular attention ſhall be paid in parochial ſchools to teaching the youth the principles

* See Dr Hardy's excellent Sermon at the opening of the General Aſſembly 1794.

principles of religion. But the evil is of great magnitude, and requires an adequate remedy.

When the virtuous Pilot has brought the veſſel of State through the perilous ſtorms that aſſault it, ſafe into the haven of peace, would it not be a taſk worthy of his head and heart, to invigorate the ſalutary rules reſpecting ſchools and colleges; to add new ones, if judged expedient; pointing the whole to the effectual eſtabliſhment of a ſyſtem of national virtue. What ſo likely to ſecure the noble purpoſe of the Royal proclamation? What more deſirable to the moſt virtuous Sovereign in the world, who, by a thouſand daily proofs, ſhows, that the virtue, felicity, and glory of his people, is the ſupreme and conſtant wiſh of his heart!

The preſent alarming effects of a long *unprincipled*, though *faſhionable education*, in a neighbouring country, holds forth an *awful admonition to the nations.*

2. The Latin language ought ever to be held as an indiſpenſable qualification, elſe youths of genius may loſe the only opportunity of riſing in the world; perſons indifferently qualified will be put into the office of ſchoolmaſters; and literature at laſt will be baniſhed from the country. Beſides this, the youth ſhould be taught the principles of reading and writing the Engliſh language with propriety; the principles of hiſtory; principles of geography; principles of mechanics; the practical parts of mathematics; and,

3. The principles of *agriculture:* The rudiments of which may be reduced to as ſimple a ſcale, and be as eaſily taught, as book-keeping. It is now taught in the univerſity of Edinburgh. A ſmall compend may be made, and illuſtrations procured on the moſt material parts, and communicated to the youth, when his underſtanding is ſufficiently opened, and he is about to leave the ſchool, and betake himſelf to the employment of agriculture.

This

This method would create a taſte for agriculture among the youth of our country; an emulation would take place from the ſchool. The young farmer would rejoice to enter upon, and excel in the profeſſion of his fathers; he would acquaint his father with the principles of the ſcience he had learned; the father, in return, would confirm them, with the ſage obſervations he had made in the courſe of a long experience; prejudices would be removed, important knowledge reſpecting the art would be circulated; a noble enthuſiaſm for agricultural improvements would be diffuſed through every pariſh. Premiums from the Board of Agriculture to the more ingenious and induſtrious, would give the deſign additional efficacy and ſucceſs.

This country is employed in agriculture, manufactures, and commerce. The education ſhould be adapted to theſe objects. Academies, upon a ſimilar plan, eſtabliſhed in towns, and endowed with proper ſalaries, would be much for the benefit of the public. The bulk of mankind have neither time nor money to procure a liberal education; a ſcheme of this kind brings inſtruction within their reach, and tends to reconcile them to it; would produce genius and improvements in mechanics, manufactures, in all profeſſions; and communicate to the generality of the people various branches of knowledge, of which they are at preſent deſtitute.

The foundation being thus eſtabliſhed upon a well conducted education, it may be proper to add ſome of theſe means which might improve the preſent ſtate of agriculture in the pariſh. Let it ſuffice to name the moſt obvious.

Hedge-rows and Incloſures.—Though theſe abound in the pariſh, it is to be wiſhed they were reared with attention, and made more perfect. Hedge-rows, of ſo long uſe

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in England, have had a conſiderable influence to bring that ſoil to its high ſtate of improvement. This country, from its bleak ſituation, and thin air, requires warmth to nouriſh its plants.

A Belt of Wood round the Farm-houſe would be an improvement.

Theſe circular clumps, riſing here and there amidſt incloſed fields and lawns, would not only ſhelter, but give the whole country the look of a moſt extenſive pleaſure-ground.

To moderate the high Price of Wages is a moſt important object of good policy. The ſeat of manufactures being in the neighbourhood is not a ſufficient plea; the wages have been high before the manufactures were ſo flouriſhing; and there is ſtill a great number who, from early habits, prefer the labours of the field. Gentlemen in other counties have eſtabliſhed proper regulations for this article, and it is certainly the intereſt of gentlemen and landholders to confine this charge within due bounds.

The Two-horſe Plough would ſave the one half both of men and horſes, and eſpecially the conſumpt of oats. The oats conſumed by three or four horſes upon a ſmall farm muſt be very great. Lord Kames has calculated, that the quantity of oats conſumed yearly by the work-horſes in Scotland, amounts in value to L. 261,940, 16 s.

The Leaſes for two 19 Years are moſt preferable. They give encouragement to the farmer to expend liberally in improvements, becauſe he conſiders it as a patrimony to his family. He truſts, that what he throws away his ſon will recover with increaſe. Short leaſes and poor farmers

are

are the great bars to improvements. If it is objected, that an advance of rent is expected at the end of the firſt 19 years, that may be agreed upon at certain periods of the leaſe; and if judiciouſly managed for 38 years, it would be worth a third or a half more than it was at the beginning.

A more favourable Rotation would be highly advantageous; a great deal more in graſs, and leſs in tillage. This would be the eaſieſt method to put farms into good order, and to keep them in it. The half of ſeed, labour, and manure might be ſpared; the work done in proper ſeaſon, and at the half of the expence.

A generous Indulgence upon the part of the Proprietor to the tenant may ſometimes be very expedient; remitting him ſome part, or allowing ſome deduction, in proportion to his liberal improvements. It is not requiſite, where farms are in good order; but conſidering the general condition of tenants, it is impoſſible farms can be improved otherwiſe. Whereas, if ſuch a meaſure was adopted for 8 or 9 years, at the beginning of the leaſe, the farmer would be enabled to apply a double quantity of manure, and thereby greatly advance the value of the ground *.

But

* A gentleman of property in the neighbourhood, ſince theſe remarks, has favoured the writer with a few lines, repreſenting, in ſtrong terms, the injury done by hunters to the farmers in this pariſh. He obſerves, that the exerciſe ſhould be confined to an open country, and dry fields; for, if purſued in a deep loamy ſoil, as here, the damage may ſoon be very great, involving wheat, ſown graſs, hedges, and all vegetation in ruin. In a word, he does not know a greater grievance that a poor farmer labours under. The hint deſerves notice; it comes from a gentleman who is dreſſing his farm with a degree of taſte equal to any in the country. To this, perhaps, it will be ſaid, that gentlemen muſt have their ſport. Yet, with all deference to that noble and ancient profeſſion, may it not be aſked,

But for theſe, and more eſſential improvements, we look to the Board of Agriculture, where, from the diſtinguiſhed abilities, zeal, and application of the Honourable Preſident and his coadjutors, and the countenance of our moſt gracious Sovereign, there is good reaſon to expect, that the greateſt benefit will accrue to the country.

Farmers here, and in the neighbourhood, have been for ſome time ſubject to inconveniencies. The advantages ariſing from their nearneſs to Glaſgow are of late impaired, granaries being eſtabliſhed there, and ſupplied with Engliſh and foreign grain, the brewer and baker are furniſhed in larger quantities, and upon a certain credit. The ſmall portion of the farmer meets not with ſo hearty a reception as formerly. The price of wheat, it has been obſerved, is ſuppreſſed till after Candlemas, when moſt of the ſmall farmers are obliged to diſpoſe of it. The value of their crops have not increaſed in proportion to the manufactures about them; ſervants wages high; manure ſcarce, and the price advanced; a ſupply of horſes not to be had, but at a very conſiderable charge.

"Pater ipſe colendi
"Haud facilem eſſe viam voluit." VIRG.

He, therefore, who diſſeminates the principles of ſound knowledge among his fellow-citizens, and from thence produces the moſt liberal crops of induſtry and virtue, this is the *true Patriot*, who confers the nobleſt bleſſings upon his country, and merits immortal praiſe.

aſked, muſt the virtuous induſtry of a poor family be forfeited for mere amuſement, the fruits of the earth deſtroyed, and a bar put to thoſe improvements which are juſtly become the object of national concern? There is no gentleman but will reply, that nothing can be more diſtant from their ſentiments. What pity then, but ſome regulations were made by theſe gentlemen themſelves, to prevent ſuch ravages, and to ſecure foils of a certain deſcription, which nature meant not to be ſported with. The meaſure is much wanted, and would be highly conducive to the police of the country.

NUMBER XVIII.

PARISH OF RAFFORD,

(SYNOD OF MORAY, COUNTY OF ELGIN, AND PRESBYTERY OF FORRES.)

By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM STEPHEN, *Miniſter.*

Name.

IN the courſe of time, the name of this pariſh has undergone ſome variation. About the beginning of the 13th century, in a charter from Pope Innocent to Bricius biſhop of Moray, it is denominated *Eccleſia de Ruffus.* How long this had been the received orthography, ſeems not very clear; but from the commencement of our preſbyterial record in 1651, I find it written, at ſucceſſive periods, *Raffart*, *Raffard*, and for about 60 years back, almoſt invariably *Rafford.* Being no adept, however, in the ancient Celtic or Gaelic languages, I will hazard no conjecture about its true etymology.

Situation,

Situation, &c.—It is ſituated in the county of Elgin, preſbytery of Forres, and Synod of Moray; extends from N. E. to S. W. above 8 Engliſh miles in length, and from 5 to 3 miles in breadth. On the E. it is bounded by the pariſhes of Alves and Elgin; on the S. by thoſe of Dallas and Edinkillie; on the W. by the river Findhorn, and the pariſh of Forres; and on the N. by that of Kinloſs.

Soil, &c.—The face of the country is much diverſified; part of it being low, flat, and fertile; part of it elevated, mooriſh, and rocky. The complexion of the ſoil, too, is various; conſiſting of a deep and rich clay, a hot and blowing ſand, a black and ſhallow mould, bottomed with rock; though the greater part is compoſed of a rough brown gravel, where the bottom is a continued ſtratum of ſmall pebbles, ſo cloſely compacted that no ploughſhare almoſt can pierce it, and having the appearance of calcination.

Climate, &c.—The *air* can hardly be ſaid to poſſeſs any ſpecific quality; it is rather dry than moiſt, rather healthy than otherwiſe. The moſt prevalent *diſtempers*, at leaſt ſuch as generally prove moſt fatal, are fevers, conſumptions, and aſthmas; theſe may partly be owing to the heat and dryneſs of the ſoil, to the cloſe and ſmoky air of the dwellings, as well as to the nature of the food, eſpecially potatoes, on which, for ſeveral months of the year, many of the poorer claſs are almoſt wholly ſuſtained.

Hills.—The *hills*, none of which are remarkable for height, are chiefly covered with heath, furze, whins, and juniper. They produce abundance of excellent peat, turf, fallen fir, and other fuel, and afford extenſive paſturage for ſheep and black cattle.

Minerals.

Minerals.—Here are two valuable *quarries*, the one of freeſtone, the other of grey ſlate, both of which are deemed inexhauſtible. The acceſs to both is eaſy, and the materials are much eſteemed in building, for their eaſineſs in working and durability.

Cattle.—The native breed of cattle is ſmall; an ordinary ox or cow ſeldom outweighing 70 or 80 lbs. a-quarter. The horſes are very indifferent, except with the beſt farmers. Sheep are numerous, ſmall ſized, and moſtly white; their wool is fine, and the mutton very delicate.

Population.—According to Dr Webſter's report in 1755, the population of Rafford then amounted to 1313 ſouls. From an accurate liſt taken in 1791, the number of pariſhioners did not exceed 1072; of theſe 488 were males, and 584 females; about 840 were found examinable, *i. e.* above 7 years old. The number of houſeholders was exactly 238; of whom 136 were married, and had iſſue; 16 were married, and had no iſſue; 18 were widowers; 48 widows; the remaining 20 unmarried, and 5 of them bachelors. The annual medium of births for the laſt 7 years, as they ſtand on the record, may be computed at 32; of marriages, at 8: But of the deaths no exact regiſter has been kept, owing chiefly to that reluctance with which the tax on burials was paid by country people*.

Poor.—About 40 poor are ſupplied from the pariſh funds. Our capital ſtock is L. 50 Sterling, and our weekly collections amount from 2 s. 6 d. to 3 s.

Longevity.

* The late taxes on births, baptiſms, marriages, burials, &c. are now repealed.

Longevity.—Few of the natives are remarkable for longevity. There are now only about three individuals in the pariſh whoſe ages exceed 80, and the generality of old men ſeldom attain that period.

Agriculture.—The bulk of the people are employed in agriculture, and ſome have pretty extenſive farms, though few have begun to incloſe their grounds, or to lay down green crops. This defect may be partly owing to want of due encouragement, as well as to ancient prejudice, to which laſt cauſe it is perhaps too often aſcribed. Of late, indeed, ſeveral of the farmers have built decent houſes, for which they have an allowance from the landlord, and a ſpirit of improvement begins to prevail. Thoſe whoſe farms are in good order, yoke two horſes only in a plough, with which an expert hand will make very neat and excellent work; but the greateſt number diſcover a predilection for oxen, of which they generally couple 6 together, and in the hilly parts, (or as they are called provincially *the braes*), where the farms are ſmall and the tenants poor, the yoke is frequently compoſed of two cows, and two horſes to lead.

Occupations, &c.—Spinning flax is the great occupation of the females, moſt of which they raiſe at home, and make into ſheeting, diaper, and ſackcloth; for little of the native growth is fine enough for ſhirting. Many of the poorer claſs, too, ſupport themſelves by ſpinning to yarn-merchants, who allow them from 10 d. to 1 s. *per* ſpindle.

Of *handicraftſmen* weavers are the moſt numerous claſs, amounting to 16 or 17, including journeymen and apprentices. There are 4 tailors; 3 blackſmiths; 3 millers; 5 joiners, and ſome of the farmers work in wood, and make their

their own ploughs, harrows, carts, and other implements of huſbandry.

Religion.—All the pariſhioners, (excepting two or three families, who belong to the Seceſſion), profeſs the Eſtabliſhed Religion, and are very punctual in their attendance at church. Viewed in this light, they appear, upon the whole, a ſenſible, decent, and ſerious people. In former times, indeed, the high and myſtical doctrines of Calviniſm being univerſally taught, and admired as the only ſyſtem of orthodox belief, had diſſeminated among the ignorant a ſpirit of wildneſs and bigotry; but this, for more than half a century paſt, has been gradually ſubſiding; and it is humbly hoped, that the rigid and fallible dogmas of men will no longer be ſubſtituted for the pure and rational truths of the goſpel. On the other hand, as no earthly community is perfect, the moſt prevalent vices I have had occaſion to remark in this, are falſehood, intemperance, ſenſuality, and petty thefts; theſe perhaps will be found moſt congenial to mild and temperate climates.

Heritors, &c.—The heritors are the Earl of Moray, proprietor of Tarras and Cluny; the Honourable Lewis Duff of Blervie; Alexander Penroſe Cumming of Altyre, and Joſeph Dunbar of Grange, Eſquires. The valued rent of the pariſh amounts to L. 2612 : 18 : 10 Scots; and the annualrent, of which a great part is victual, may be eſtimated, *communibus annis*, about L. 1600 Sterling.

Eſtates, &c.—The Earl of Moray, though he has no family ſeat, holds ſome of the fineſt lands in the pariſh; his people, too, ſurpaſs moſt of their neighbours in the decent appearance of their houſes, and the order in which they keep their grounds. In Tarras they raiſe plentiful crops of wheat,

barley, oats, peaſe, beans,—flax and potatoes; theſe laſt are found an uſeful mean of improvement. The mode of preparation is this: An exhauſted field is let out in parcels, rent free, to poor people in the neighbourhood, who on their part furniſh the manure, labour the ground by trenching it with the ſpade, plant and reap the crop. In this manner, the bottom ſoil, which is a ſtrong clay, being expoſed and meliorated, acquires a degree of fertility which it does not loſe for years after. The oats produced here are of a ſuperior kind, and highly eſteemed for ſowing. The lands of Cluny, ſituated in the hilly part of the pariſh, are ſomewhat cold and backward; the ſoil, however, is powerful, and the corn pretty good of its quality, and the whole eſtate is accommodated with abundance of fuel and paſturage. Here is the ſlate-quarry formerly mentioned, which is rented from the proprietor by the tackſman of the farm wherein it lies, and by him let out to the quarriers, at the rate of 40 s. *per* 1000 rough ſlates.

The barony of Blervie is a valuable eſtate, comprehending large and fertile fields of corn, which produce grain of an excellent quality, eſpecially barley, oats, and rye. There are conſiderable tracts of mooriſh and hilly ground upon it, where the paſture in general is very dry and ſalubrious. It is alſo well ſupplied with fuel; for though in ſome places, by the abuſe of thoſe who have long had ſervitudes upon them, the peat-moſſes have ſuffered dilapidation, yet in others they ſtill remain unbroken; and wherever the proprietor's people find a deficiency of peat, they have recourſe upon the moors, which furniſh them with turf ſufficient to make up their annual complement. Mr Duff has built a very neat modern houſe, which he has greatly ornamented, by planting the adjoining hills, improving his farm, and laying out his fields to advantage. The ancient family

family ſeat belonging to the Dunbars, is moſtly demoliſhed; all that remains of it being a high tower, which, ſtanding on elevated ground, commands an immenſe proſpect, including almoſt the whole Moray Frith, with a great part of the counties of Elgin, Nairn, Inverneſs, Cromarty, Roſs, Sutherland and Caithneſs.

Eaſtward from this about two miles, ſtands the caſtle of Burgee, the ſeat of Dunbar of Grange. It is a large and beautiful fabric, conſiſting of a ſquare tower of ſix ſtoreys, built in 1602, and an adjoining manſion founded about a century later. The gardens occupy ſeveral acres, contain a variety of fruit-trees, and are ſkirted with double rows of fine ſpreading beeches. In approaching this place, which is very conſpicuous, the mind is powerfully impreſſed with an idea of ancient magnificence. Here is the freeſtone quarry alluded to page 340. from which, though great quantities of materials are conſtantly taken, the proprietor derives almoſt no pecuniary advantage. It is further remarkable, that though Mr Dunbar's rental has ſuſtained little or no alteration for more than 80 years; though the whole of his lands are very improvable, and abound with every needful accommodation; yet his people are not affluent, their farms are poorly cultivated, and their houſes mean. Theſe defects muſt doubtleſs in ſome meaſure be attributed to want of leaſes, which, on account of certain family embarraſſments, that gentlemen is not diſpoſed to grant them. Being reſtricted, too, from cutting peat in the moſſes of Burgie, they conſume a great part of the ſummer in providing their fuel, which they muſt bring from the moſſes of Altyre in the oppoſite extremity of the pariſh, where Grange has a ſervitude. This inconvenience ſtill further aggravates the want of agricultural improvement in his eſtate.

Altyre was formerly a diſtinct pariſh, belonging to the parſonage of Dallas, and was annexed to Rafford by act of Parliament 1661. The walls of the old church remain entire, which till of late, that Mr Cumming erected a new tomb, had been the burying-place of his anceſtors time out of mind. The Cummings of Logie, who are a branch of this family, and moſt of the ancient reſidenters, ſtill continue to bury here. The ſoil of Altyre is generally thin, but ſharp and productive. It commands a prodigious extent of hill and paſturage, and the peat-moſſes are inexhauſtible. The preſent proprietor has brought his farm into the higheſt order, and obſerves a judicious rotation of green and corn crops, which ſeldom fail to be rich and abundant. He has planted about 1000 acres, with fir and other timber, which are advancing rapidly and decorating the place. The family ſeat is an old plain building, with two neat modern wings, and though well fitted up and commodious, is not ſuitable to that ſtyle diſplayed by its ingenious owner everywhere around it. Of late, however, he has adopted the idea of building a new manſion, on a very ſuperb and elegant plan. Here is a ſpacious garden, abounding with a variety of excellent fruit and culinary ſtuffs. On the north and eaſt it is incloſed with a high wall, which is covered with a number of fine eſpaliers, conſiſting of apples, pears, cherries, plumbs, apricots, nectarines, peaches, *&c.* all of the rareſt kinds, and moſt exquiſite flavour. For ſome time, Colonel Cumming has reſided, with his family, in Tarres, where he has a fine houſe and a conſiderable property.

Church, Stipend, &c.—The church is nearly centrical, being ſituated about 3 miles ſouth-eaſt from Tarres; it was rebuilt in 1754; and the manſe in 1746. In the times

of Dioceſan Epiſcopacy, this was the ſeat of the ſubchanter of Moray. Miſs Brodie of Lethen is patron. The ſtipend, by decreet in 1752, is 76 bolls 3 firlots barley, and L. 349 : 13 : 4 Scots, including 100 merks for communion-elements. A proceſs of augmentation is now depending before the Court of Teinds.—The ſalary of the ſchool is 16 bolls of bear; it has long been in a flouriſhing ſtate. By his unremitting attention to the morals as well as proficiency of his pupils, during a period of more than 40 years, the preſent teacher has acquired a juſt degree of celebrity. Many characters now reſpectable in the literary, the commercial, the civil, and military departments, among others the learned Rector of the High School of Edinburgh, who is a native, received their claſſical education here.

Obeliſk.—The only piece of antiquity worthy of remark, is the ſtanding pillar near Tarres, commonly called Sueno's Stone. It is allowed by all journaliſts who have viewed it, to ſurpaſs, in elegance and grandeur, all the other obeliſks in Scotland, and is ſaid to be the fineſt monument of the Gothic kind to be ſeen in Europe. Some time ago, when it was like to fall, Lady Anne Campbell, late Counteſs of Moray, cauſed it to be ſet upright, and ſupported with ſeveral ſteps of freeſtone. The height of this ſtone cannot now be eaſily aſcertained; it riſes about 23 feet above ground, and is ſaid to be 12 under it. Its breadth is about 4 feet. What is above ground is viſibly divided, on the eaſt ſide, into ſeven parts, containing a variety of military ſculptures. The greateſt part of the other ſide is occupied by a ſumptuous croſs, under which are two auguſt perſonages in an attitude of reconciliation.

The

The Reverend Mr Cordiner of Banff, in his letters to Mr Pennant on the antiquities and ſcenery of the north of Scotland, has exhibited a fine drawing of this monument, and his remarks on it appear to be more ſatisfactory than any I have read. He ſuppoſes it to have been erected in memory of the peace concluded between Malcom and Canute, upon the final retreat of the Danes from the kingdom. This event is ſaid to have happened about the year 1012.

But to whatever tranſaction it may allude, it can hardly be imagined, that in ſo early an age of the arts in Scotland as it muſt have been raiſed, ſo elaborate a performance would have been undertaken but in conſequence of an event of the moſt general importance. It is therefore ſurpriſing, that no more diſtinct traditions of it reached to the æra when letters were known.

NUM-

NUMBER XIX.

UNITED PARISHES

OF

WHITSOM AND HILTON,

(COUNTY OF BERWICK, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TEVIOTDALE, AND PRESBYTERY OF CHURNSIDE),

By the Rev. Mr GEORGE CUPPLES, *Minister of Swinton.*

Situation, &c.

THE united parishes of Whitsom and Hilton, in the presbytery of Chirnside, Berwickshire, are conjectured to extend in length from W. to E. about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles English; from S to N. the breadth does not exceed $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles. They are bounded by Edrom parish on the W. and on the N.; by the parish of Hutton on the E; and by Swinton and Ladykirk on the S.

Farms,

Farms, &c.—They contain the following farms; in enumerating and deſcribing which, I begin from the weſt, and go eaſtward.

1. The firſt I ſhall take notice of is Weſt-laws, the property of Robert Hepburn of Clerkington, Eſq; conſiſting of about 665 acres; the rent of which is only L. 140, upon a leaſe; which, from change of times, has proved moſt diſadvantageous to the proprietor, without much enriching the humane, but indolent tenant; as the leaſe ſoon expires, it will no doubt be more than tripled. Weſt-laws contains a great deal of fertile, dry, and well-expoſed grounds; but much of it marſhy and wet, and many neglected fields, over-run with whins, *&c.* but very capable of being improved, when a new leaſe and an enterpriſing tenant ſhall fall to its ſhare. The farmer's old, plain, and unadorned manſion, office houſes, and the cottages of his hinds and dependents, form a little village on one of theſe long eminences with which this part of the country abounds, from which elevation the farm derives its name; this ſituation commands a fine proſpect, and may eaſily be rendered dry and commodious.

2. Weſt Newton, the property of Charles Buchan, Eſq; conſiſts of 250 acres, rented at L. 130, upon a new leaſe, (for it has long been occupied by the preſent tenant and his father), which commenced at Whitſunday 1794, the validity of which is now diſputed by the proprietor, in a proceſs before the Court of Seſſion. Seventy acres of it are bad, extremely ſo, being moory and marſhy, from the watery ſituation of the farm, which renders it often inacceſſible from moſt quarters; it is uſually called Buchan's Iſle.

3. Eaſt

3. Eaſt Newton, the property of James Dickſon of Anton's-hill, Eſq; conſiſts of about 250 acres, much exceeding indeed in moiſture, but containing more good, dry, and fertile ground than the former. It is rented at L. 160, upon a leaſe nearly expiring; and this farm, along with 17 detached acres at the north-eaſt corner of it, rented at L. 17, and amounting, with the rent of Eaſt Newton, to L. 177, conſtitutes the property of Mr Dickſon in this pariſh at preſent.

4. Langrigg is, as its name implies, a long narrow ſtrip of land, conſiſting of 155 acres Scots meaſure, or 186 Engliſh. It is low, but well improved and ſkilfully cultivated, as it has very long been in the occupation of the proprietor, its rent cannot be preciſely aſcertained, but it is not over-rated in its preſent ſtate at L. 1 Sterling *per* acre, and of courſe gives L. 186. It is the property of Joſhua Tart, Eſq; and gives a vote for a Member of Parliament. This eſtate pays only 6 s. 8 d. to the miniſter, the ſuppoſed converſion of a boll of oats of old; the new ſtipend not yet localled.

5. Ravelaw and Eaſt-Laws, the property of Sir Alexander Don, Baronet, occupied in one farm, conſiſts of 466 acres, the rent of which is L. 372. Along with ſome wet, marſh, low lying ground, it contains no ſmall proportion of good, fertile, dry, and well expoſed ground, well improved, and ſkilfully cultivated.

6. In our progreſs, there occur certain ſmall portions of ground, too ſmall to conſtitute a farm, yet not to be omitted in this account of the pariſh. 1*ſt*, the 17 detached acres at the north-eaſt corner of Eaſt Newton, already mentioned as part of the property of James Dickſon, Eſq; occupied by one family; theſe few acres are exceedingly

fertile, and well improved, rented, as before ſtated, at L. 17. Adjoining to which, on the eaſt, lies a feu of John Bowmaker's, about 11 acres, now occupied by an ingenious cart-wheel and plough-wright and ſmith, the only conſiderable mechanic in this pariſh; his rent L. 14 Sterling; theſe acres are remarkably good and well cultivated; they reach to the glebe of Whitſom on the eaſt, which glebe is rather incommoded by a feu of a ſmall fraction of an acre, and a houſe upon it, inhabited by one old woman on the north of the manſe; and ſtill more effectually has this glebe been hurt by clay huts; a ſmall incloſure of 4 good acres, now rented at L. 6, on the ſouth ſide of the glebe, (which the miniſters of this pariſh had very long poſſeſſed at a ſmall rent), being taken from them on a pique of the Laird of Wedderburn, and the reſumption ratified by the Court of Seſſion; it now belongs to the Earl of Wemyſs.

7. Handie's-hill, a gradually aſcending ridge of a conſiderable length, leads from the manſe eaſtward to the village of Whitſom. Handie's hill belongs to the Earl of Wemyſs, and is one of theſe farms afterwards to be mentioned, as conſtituting the very conſiderable farm occupied by John Hogarth.

8. The village of Whitſom, the only one now in the united pariſhes, is very inconſiderable, and has no trade nor manufacture of any kind; it is principally formed by the houſe and offices of the farmer of Whitſom on the weſt end; the houſe and offices of a feuer at the eaſt end; a fine modern houſe of a feuer on the ſouth-eaſt; the ſchoolmaſter's houſe and ſchool, with a few private weavers and ſhoemakers, theſe conſtitute the whole village, which contains 143 ſouls. The farm at the weſt end of Whitſom belongs to —— Boſwell of Blackadder, Eſq; rented at L. 342,

L. 342, for not many more than 342 acres. The feu at the eaſt end of Whitſom belongs to John Cunningham, who occupies alſo Aitchiſon's feu; theſe two feus contain 38 acres, well worth as many pounds. The feu on the ſouth ſide is John Herriot's, of 60 acres, which are rather undervalued at a guinea an acre, equal to L. 63. Indeed, all the lands about this village are moſt fertile excellent ſoil, and fine expoſure.

9. We ſhall next enumerate the farms occupied by an opulent and conſiderable farmer, John Hogarth, under the Earl of Wemyſs, their proprietor:

1*ſt*, Hurdie's-hill, already mentioned, which contains 5 families, and forms a ſort of ſuburbs on the weſt end of Whitſom.

2*d*, Hilton, about three-fourths of a mile to the eaſt of Whitſom, formerly a ſmall village, with a kirk and manſe, both now in ruins, in conſequence of the annexation and the different arrangements made by the farmers. The whole old pariſh, excluſive of Tandinfield, contains only 9 families, conſiſting of 50 ſouls.

3*d*, The Weſt Vaults, which, along with Eaſt Vaults, under another tenant, contains 28 ſouls in 7 families.

4*th*, Cantrigg and Deadrigg, on the ſouth ſide of the pariſh, containing 29 ſouls in ſeven families. All theſe are moſt fertile ground, eſpecially near the old village of Hilton, where the fields are not exceeded in fertility by any part of the county at a diſtance from the towns.

10. South of Hilton lies Tondinfield, the property of Anthony Foſter, Eſq; occupied by a farmer, who does not reſide upon it. It contains 270 acres, rented at L. 220: The ſoil, expoſure, and cultivation excellent, as the name ſeems to imply; containing, in 7 families, 32 ſouls.

11. On

11. On the north of Hilton, on Hilton-hill, lies Myreſides, well named from its low, marſhy ſituation, divided into two parts, one of them a feu of George Purves, conſiſting of about 20 acres, ſuppoſed equal to L. 15; and a ſmall farm of about 40 acres, part of Mr Boſwell's eſtate, which pays L. 38 of rent to the proprietor, and L. 6 to an old farmer for quitting it to the preſent tenant.

12. Immediately north of Myreſide lies the farm of Dykelhead, the ſoil much inferior to the ſoil of Hilton and Tondinfield, and rented low accordingly at L. 132, part of Mr Boſwell's eſtate, as is likewiſe now French-Law, within theſe few weeks purchaſed by him from a Mr Scott of Alnwick, at nearly 40 years purchaſe, rather from its contiguity to his other grounds, than its fertility, which is certainly, however, ſuperior to Dykelhead; it is conjectured to have got its name from the French, either as allies or foes, having made a neighbouring eminence their ſtation while in this part of the country; the rent is L. 50. To the north of it lies Moorhouſe, a very ſmall detached piece of ground belonging to the ſame proprietor; the moſt northerly, and the very worſt ſoil in the pariſh.

13. North-weſt of Dykelhead and French-Law, the feu of Leethead, belonging to Robert Chirnſide, conſiſts of 44 acres, moſt of it good fertile ground, well worth L. 1 Sterling *per* acre. Here riſes Leet, which, inconſiderable as it is, is the only ſtream which has obtained a name in this pariſh; it is minutely deſcribed in the account of Swinton, where it becomes more conſiderable.

14. Due eaſt of Hilton-hill lies the large extenſive farm of Wynnefield, called ſo from Wynne Johnſtone, Eſq; its late proprietor, and now the property of the Earl of

Wemyſs. Wynnefield conſiſts of 650 acres. The farmer's houſe is a little more than an Engliſh mile upon a public road, very gradually ſloping from Hilton-hill, and the fertility and value of the land ſenſibly declines as it recedes from Hilton; and this decreaſe in the goodneſs of the ſoil is moſt perceptible on the north ſide of the road.

Population.—According to Dr Webſter's report, the population in 1755 was 399. At preſent, this pariſh contains in all 590 ſouls; of which number, 206 are men; 246 women; and 139 children at or about 10 years of age. One of theſe men is 93, and one woman 94; this old woman is ſound and healthy, and as ſhe came in with the century, ſo there is good reaſon to believe ſhe may ſee it out.

Eccleſiaſtical State.—The preſent incumbent is Mr John Waugh, in the 82d year of his age. He was ordained a diſſenting miniſter in Alnwick in 1743, and admitted miniſter of Whitſom at Whitſunday 1755; he is a widower, and has 3 children; the eldeſt, a daughter, married to the miniſter of Swinton; the ſecond, Robert Waugh, ſurgeon of the 93d regiment; and the third, John Waugh, miniſter of Menmoor in Angus-ſhire, in the preſbytery of Brechin. The ſtipend, by a very recent augmentation, now modified, but not localled, is in money L. 82 0 0
And for communion-elements now given, 5 0 0
Along with two ſmall bolls of wheat, value 2 0 0
One chalder of barley, value in money 12 0 0
One chalder oat-meal, value ditto - 12 16 0

The whole being - - L. 113 16 0
With two glebes, amounting together to 28 acres, well worth L. 1, 10 s. *per* acre, or 42 16 0

L. 155 16 0

The

The annexation, which had been ſome years before decreed, took place in 1735, by the tranſlation of Mr George Home from Hilton to Whittingham in Eaſt Lothian. Mr Waugh's immediate predeceſſor in Whitſom was a Mr Calder, brother of Cadwalleder Calder, Eſq; author of a very neat account of the Five Nations of Canada. The church was, in my remembrance, a miſerable thatched building, which, though now ſlated, is ſtill very ill ſeated, narrow and incommodious. It will be acceptable to all concerned, if the Earl of Wemyſs, patron and principal proprietor, reſume a plan of John Stewart, Eſq; his predeceſſor in the eſtate of Vaults, and in the patronage of Whitſom, (as Robert Johnſton, Eſq; of Hilton was in the eſtate and patronage of Hilton), of building a handſome church upon Handie's-hill, a moſt commodious ſituation both for the villagers and the pariſh at large, and not more remote from the manſe than the preſent church, which is moſt inconveniently detached both from the village and from the manſe. All the pariſhioners are ſtaunch Preſbyterians, either of the Eſtabliſhment or of the Seceſſion; the Seceders are not above 1 in 12 in proportion to the adherers to the Kirk.

Poor.—The poor have, till very lately, been ſupported by the ordinary collections on Sunday, and the box was rather rich; but of late a very ſlender tax has become neceſſary.

School.—The ſchoolmaſter of the united pariſh has a ſalary of about from L. 8 to L. 9 Sterling, a houſe, a ſchool, and a very ſmall garden, with kirk-dues, and ſome perquiſites ariſing from his collecting the road-money. However, by the prudent choice of ſchoolmaſters, ſome able teachers have occupied this place, and have had great numbers of ſcholars in penmanſhip, languages, mathematics, and the

practical arts derived from them; and ſome very worthy members of ſociety in the learned profeſſions, and in inferior lines, owe their education to Whitſom ſchool, till they went either to the Univerſities, or to their apprenticeſhips.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The grains ſown in this pariſh are oats, barley, wheat, peaſe, beans, veatches, rye very ſeldom; and the roots cultivated in the fields are potatoes and turnips; no graſſes have I met with but rye-graſs and clover, red or white. No animals are to be found, but horſes, by which the whole tillage is performed; black cattle, ſheep, and here and there an aſs for medical purpoſes. No curioſity occurs here, except that Deadriggs certainly derives its name from ſome ſkirmiſhes of the hoſtile borderers; and that Eaſt and Weſt Vaults got their names from certain Vaults, formed of old in ſeveral places of this pariſh, for ſecreting their effects, upon any alarm from the ſouth.

It is rather extraordinary, that no one heritor or proprietor has ſo much as a houſe within the pariſh, except Joſhua Tait, Eſq; This circumſtance cannot have a good effect, but muſt retard the civilization of the pariſhioners, and tend to circumſcribe the religious and political views of the people; as gentlemens ſeats, where the owners reſide any part of the year, never fail to diffuſe a degree of urbanity, politeneſs, and ſubordination, very ſalutary to ſociety; induſtry is rewarded, ingenuity and arts flouriſh. This inconvenience of the abſence of the great is gradually abating by the rapid improvement in the education, manners, opulence, and mode of living of the preſent farmers. Some of them have a taſte for books; and not a few live in a ſtyle which their lairds 40 years ago did not exceed. One of theſe tenants, if he had his abſtemiouſneſs and ſelf-denial,

would

would be truly the untutored and unlettered ſage deſcribed by Horace,

" Abnormis ſapiens craſſaque Minerva."

" His native energy deſpiſes rules;
" Nor takes he ſenſe or ſcience from the ſchools."

The common people are moderate, ſenſible, and ſober; nor have any of them for theſe 40 years been charged with a capital crime. Nor do I recollect either riot, violence, or diſorder among them. Such as have had an opportunity of a better education, have imbibed it with docility and ſucceſs. Nor do I know, on the other hand, any inſtances of very ſplendid abilities, or extraordinary exertions among them. Any thing like commerce with them conſiſts in the ſale of corn, eggs, poultry, *&c.* to Berwick.

ADDENDA.

1. I have not been able to aſcertain the acres nor the rents of each farm of ——— Boſwell of Blackadder; but his acres, on the whole, are nearly about 960, and his rent very exactly L. 560.

2. Neither the acres in general of the Earl of Wemyſs, nor the particular acres or rent of each of his farms, do I know; but his rent is certainly about L. 1100.

NUM-

NUMBER XX.

PARISH OF PETERCULTER,

(COUNTY, SYNOD, AND PRESBYTERY OF ABERDEEN.)

By the Rev. Mr GEORGE MARK, *Minister.*

Origin of the Name.

THE latter part of the name is variously written, as fancy suggests. By some it is written *Coulter;* others write *Culture*, &c. In our oldest parish-register, which begins with the year 1674, it is uniformly written *Culter*. This, probably, is nearest to the original word, which seems to be a Gaelic compound, consisting of *cul*, "the back," and *tir*, "a country*."

Extent,

* To account for this etymology, it is to be observed, that the parish-church stands on the north bank of the river Dee, which separates two large tracts of country. Near to the church are ferry-boats, which connect the lines of communication between the two countries. Here are united

Extent, &c.—From the eaſt point, this pariſh ſtretches S. W. and W. 8 miles. Towards the intermediate point, where

united ſeveral roads, which lead from different points, and here is the chief paſſage acroſs the river, next to the bridge of Dee, from which it bears weſt about 6 meaſured miles.—Gaelic had certainly been the language of the inhabitants at a very early period; and when they travelled from the north into the ſouth, or from the ſouth into the north, they would naturally ſay, they were going to *eul tir*, the back or extremity of the country.—When Popery became the eſtabliſhed religion, chapels had been built on the oppoſite ſides of the river, and dedicated to their reſpective ſaints, Mary and Peter; and to the names of theſe ſaints, the ancient name of the place had been added. To them were conſecrated, not only the chapels, but the neareſt wells; the one called the *Lady's*, and the other *Peter's* well. A few paces from the church there is a high and ſteep bank, called *Peter's heugh*. I am inclined to think that the name of the pariſh is Gaelic, becauſe ſeveral places in it, and around it, do evidently derive their names from that language. For inſtance, ſouth-weſt from the church is the barony of Kenarty, or Kean-ardè; ſo called from the ancient ſeat of the barons, which was ſituated on the top of a ſmall eminence, at the extremity of higher ground. As we go eaſtward to Aberdeen, next to the eſtate of Culter, by the lands of Murtle, ſo called from *mur* (or muir) *til*, "the turn or reflux of the ſea." The tides, when they riſe higheſt, do not now reach within two or three miles of theſe lands; but it is probable that ſome centuries back, they had flowed that far. In ſeveral places the ſea has receded, and a receſs of it has been obſerved at Aberdeen. Beſides, the progreſs of the tides might be obſtructed by the Dee ſhifting its bed; or by the great quantity of mud, ſand and ſtones, carried down with its rapid ſtreams.—As we proceed towards Aberdeen, the next eſtate is called Cults, or Cultis, from *cul*, "the back," and *teas* or *deas*, "ſouth;" it having a warm expoſure to the ſouth, and a hill behind it, to ſhelter it from the north and north-eaſt. Its ſituation anſwers to the ſituation of a place called Sunnyſide. In the north corner of the pariſh there is a farm called Leuchar, which ſignifies a place where ruſhes grow. On that farm they abound. In the north ſide of the pariſh there is a farm called *Auchlee*, in Gaelic *Auch-laodh*, i. e. "Calf-field." It had been noted for rearing calves.—Many more inſtances could be given. In proceeding to the weſtward, I find the names of places, except thoſe which are modern, to be Gaelic, or tranſlations from it.

where it is indented by Dalmaik, it does not extend above 5 or ſix miles. It is in many places 5 or 6 miles broad. This pariſh is of a very irregular form. The burn of Leuchar or Culter, parts it into three diviſions; the weſt, and the ſouth and eaſt diviſions. That burn flows from the Loch of Skene ſouthward, and after dividing the pariſhes of Echt and Skene in that quarter, it turns eaſtward along a large tract of peat-moſs, called Leuchar-moſs; and there it gets the name of Leuchar-burn. Proceeding towards the ſouth-eaſt 3 miles, it is in that courſe the boundary between the pariſh of Skene and the weſt diviſion of this pariſh *. It then receives the burn of the Ord, and runs, in a line almoſt at right angles to its former direction, from a ſouth-weſt corner of Skene, to a north-eaſt corner of Dalmaik; ſo that it quite interſects this pariſh, which is there only a mile and a half broad. At the N.E. of Dalmaik, the burn of Gormack falls into it; and then it is called the Burn of Culter. Thence it directs its courſe ſometimes eaſtward, ſometimes ſouthward, and waſhing part of Dalmaik, and the north-eaſt ſide of the barony of Kenarty, falls into Dee at the ſouth-eaſt corner of the glebe †.—The weſt

* Leuchar-burn, prior to its junction with the Burn of Ord, paſſes through an extenſive flat, partly meadow, partly ſwamp, and ſome of it arable. But it is ſo liable to inundations that none of it can be ploughed but in a very dry ſeaſon. At the end of the flat there is a cataract. Some time ago, a maſon was employed to cut the rock and deepen the channel, that the plain might be drained. By ſome defect, however, in the plan or execution, or in both, the end was not attained.

† I have been the more particular in tracing the courſe of the Burn of Culter and Leuchar, becauſe in that tract a canal might be formed between the river Dee and Loch Skene. Into the north corner of that lake runs a pretty large ſtream, after gliding through a ſmooth valley near to

weſt diviſion approaches to the figure of the larger ſegment of an half-elipſe, and is ſeparated from Dalmaik by the Gormack-burn, which makes an oval ſweep from the N. W. to the N. E. point. Its length is 3 miles, its greateſt breadth as many; but it diminiſhes at the north-weſt boundary, to a quarter of a mile. It contains ten ploughs. Culter burn ſeparates the eſtate of Culter from the barony of Kenarty, which makes the ſecond or ſouth diviſion of the pariſh, extending from the burn to the ſouth-weſt, beyond the church of Dalmaik. In that direction it is above 3 miles long. In ſome places it is 2 miles broad, in others 1 mile; and towards the ſouth-weſt boundary, it is not many paces in breadth.—The eaſtern diviſion may be ſaid to be a many-ſided *trapezium*. Its breadth from N. to S. is 5 or 6 miles; except on the W. ſide, towards the burn of Leuchar, where it diminiſhes to 3 miles, and at laſt to the half of that meaſure. From E. to W. it meaſures from 5 to 3 miles. This is the largeſt diviſion, and comprehends the eſtates of Culter and Counteſſwells, and the lands of Murtle.—The figure of the pariſh being ſo irregular, it would be difficult to compute its ſquare contents. There was never any ſurvey made of it, except of Counteſſwells and Murtle.

to the ſeat of the Honourable Mr Duff of Echt, and to the houſe of Skene. By means of this, and other ſtreams, the communication might be carried forward, between Caſtle-Fraſer and Kemnay, to the river Don, joining it not far from the termination of the intended canal betwixt Aberdeen and Monymuſk. When we conſider the preſent ſtate of the country, its population, improvement, opulence, commerce, &c. the conſtruction of ſuch a canal ſeems to be a remote event; but it may, like other events of a ſimilar nature, be anticipated by the contemplative mind.

Surface, Soil, Climate, &c.—The face of the pariſh is very rugged and uneven, with ſlopes and hollows, rocky eminences and marſhy flats interſperſed. Here and there ſtands a ſmall conical hill or a conical ridge, ſurrounded with arable ground or with ſwamps, traverſed ſometimes by a rivulet. Towards the river, the uncultivated ground is covered with furze and broom; the furze predominates. As we retire from the river northward, there is much moor-ground, covered with ſhort heath, and ſcattered buſhes of broom and furze. In two of the higher hills, which are not, however, of great height, the heath is long enough to afford ſhelter to moorfowl; but that ſpecies of game does not abound here. Partridges are very numerous.—Towards the river, the ſoil is gravel and ſand, with a ſmall mixture of earth. Here and there are interjected ſmall fields of a fine black mould, fit for any garden productions, or for any farinaceous grain. Northward, on the higher ground, the ſoil is a red earth, with a clay bottom. On the lower ground, it is a mixture of black earth or peat-moſs. In many places, the ſurface is covered with rocks and large ſtones, fit for nothing but building fences; but in the ſouth and weſt diviſions, granite is found. In the latter, there is a quarry of great extent, which has never been opened. It is believed that it would furniſh materials for building a very large city, perhaps for building ſeveral cities. Here ſtones 7 or 8 feet long are found on the ſurface.

The banks of the Dee are noted for ſalubrity of air. In this pariſh there is little variation of climate. The houſes are generally built on high ground, and in a dry ſituation; and the people are healthy. I have not, however, heard of any remarkable inſtance of longevity. Several exceed 80, but few or none arrive at the age of 90 years. Rheumatiſm prevails among both ſexes, eſpecially among the

males.

males. The openneſs of their houſes; a ſcanty proviſion of fuel; the variableneſs of the weather, againſt which they do not ſufficiently guard; and the want of care, after being heated at work,—may be reckoned among the *cauſes* of this malady. Conſumption cuts off many young perſons. Five are now afflicted with that diſeaſe, and two have died lately. Cancerous diſorders are not unfrequent. The wind-colick, and other flatulent complaints, are very common. This may partly proceed from their living ſo much on vegetables, without being able to procure animal food. Few children eſcape the ſmall-pox in the natural way, for inoculation is not practiſed among them. Seldom are either the ſmall-pox or the meaſles fatal. For accidental hurts, for whatever diſeaſes require chirurgical or medical ſkill, the pariſhioners are recommended to the Infirmary of Aberdeen, where great attention is paid to them, and many are benefited by that uſeful inſtitution. The phyſicians obſerve, that ſcrofulous diſorders are more common among the country people than is generally believed.—Although there cannot be great difference of climate in ſo narrow a compaſs, yet the ſnow is often deeper, and the froſt is more intenſe in the interior parts of the pariſh, than on the river ſide. Here, a ſouth expoſure, and a thin dry ſoil, give a greater effect to the rays of the ſun. Theſe cauſes contribure to make the crops more early, and likewiſe more productive.

Property, Agriculture.—Almoſt two-thirds of the pariſh belonged to the late Mrs Udny Duff, and go now to her ſucceſſor. About a ſixth part, or more, belonged to the late Mr Burnett of Counteſſwells, who left one ſon, now a minor, attending ſchool in England. The other ſixth part, comprehending the greateſt ſhare of the lands of Murtle, belonged to the town of Aberdeen. The town divided their property into four lots. Three lots were

feued, or let in fee; the fourth was let in leaſe. Mr Watſon, Advocate in Aberdeen, feued the lot of Bingle. The lot called Mains of Murtle has paſſed through various hands, and is now the property of Mr Gordon, merchant in Aberdeen. Both theſe gentlemen have built neat country ſeats, at which they occaſionally reſide. The large and commodious manſions of Culter and Counteſſwells are at preſent uninhabited. The lot of Oldfold belongs now to Profeſſor Ogilvy of King's College, who has let the whole of it to one tenant. A ſmall houſe, the ſeat of the former proprietor, is quite deſolate and ruinous. It is more than half a century ſince a part of the eſtate of Drum was annexed to the eſtate of Culter. In this pariſh, the barony of Kenarty, or ſouth diviſion, containing 4 or 5 ploughs, and alſo the weſt diviſion, belong now to the proprietor of Culter. The 4 lots of Murtle are incloſed and ſubdivided, partly by hedging, and partly by ſtone fences. Some of the incloſures have been trenched, cleared of ſtones, well manured, and brought to a ſtate of improvement far from being deſpicable. Mr Watſon has favoured me with the following detail relative to his lot, which is ſubjoined in the note below *. The uſe of lime, as Mr Watſon obſerves, is

* My feu is called Binghill, not *Bingle*, in the original writs. It is 28 years ſince I feued it. In extent it is 170 acres. At that time only 42 of theſe were arable; the remainder being covered with heath, furze, broom, briars, &c. I planted 60 acres, and trenched and improved the reſt at a very conſiderable expence; ſo all of it now bears crop but that under wood. I put 7000 plants into every acre; that is, 420,000 plants in all: Of theſe were firs of all kinds, alſo oak, elm, aſh, planes, &c. beſides many fruit-trees in my gardens. They thrive; and many of the firs are already 15 and 20 feet high, and more. In one of the plantations a Druid's temple was diſcovered, which I incloſed. Near to it there is a large *tumulus*, or cairn, which, it is ſaid, was once the burying place of the ancient family of Drum, my farm having been their family ſeat ſome centuries back. That old family were formerly proprietors of it and Murt-hill, or Murtle, and

is common; but it is uſed in ſo ſmall quantities, that no great advantage is in general reaped from it. They muſt bring all the lime which they uſe from Aberdeen, for there is no limeſtone hitherto found in the pariſh. There may be 3 or 4 farmers here, who annually bring out each between 30 and 40 bolls of unſlaked lime, or ſhell-lime, which is equal to thrice that meaſure of ſlaked lime. Few of the reſt uſe above 10 or 12 bolls in a year, and ſome of them none at all. In the eſtate of Culter, and the lands in this pariſh now annexed to it, there are 23 or 24 farmers; and although 3 or 4 farms be ſometimes let to one tenant, no farmer pays above L. 40 of rent; ſome from L. 20 to L. 30; and ſome from L. 10 to L. 20. Theſe farmers have ſo many ſubtenants; but every one of them is reſtricted to a certain number of fires. The peat-moſs belonging to the eſtate of Culter is almoſt exhauſted, and the tenants are prohibited from ſelling any peats. They and the tenants in the barony of Kenarty, may cut fuel in the moſs of Leuchar, which ſupplies the weſt diviſion, but is at a great diſtance, and the road is very bad. In the lands of Counteſſwells peat-moſs abounds; and therefore, when Mr Burnett purchaſed that eſtate, the farms were divided into ſmall poſſeſſions,

and of a great tract of country around beſides. In digging up the foundation of ſome old walls, which were ſaid to have been part of the manſion of that family, my workmen found near an handful of ſilver coin, about the ſize of ſixpences, inſcribed *Davidus Rex*. About that time a report was prevalent of a bull's hide, filled with money, being ſunk in a bog. In trenching, the labourers went deeper here than any way, in full expectation of diſcovering the treaſure, but were diſappointed.—In the plantations there are foxes, hares, and deer, &c. When I began to improve, the uſe of lime was ſcarcely known, except at Culter, where ſoot and lime were both uſed. Of the latter I drove out many cargoes. The country people then ſaid, *I was not wiſe enough;* but when they ſaw the crops it produced, by the different methods of uſing it, they changed their opinion, and very ſoon uſed it themſelves, and found the benefit of it. Now it is quite common.

poſſeſſions, and let to ſeparate tenants, ſo that every houſe-holder, with a few exceptions, pays to the proprietor. Many of them pay their rent by carrying milk and fuel to Aberdeen; and the improvement of the land is not much minded. If they can lay out a ſmall ſpot in turnip and graſs for a milk-cow or two, they ſeek no more. One of the tenants, indeed, has a pretty large farm, well incloſed and ſubdivided, and raiſes green crops, *&c.* and pays, I believe, between L. 70 and L. 80 of rent. He keeps a flock of ſheep, conſiſting of 100 or more, the only ſheep on that eſtate. Formerly there were from 10,000 to 12,000 on it; but the tenants ſay, that they cannot now keep any, ſince ſo much hill has been incloſed and planted. It is to no purpoſe to expatiate on the advantage of keeping ſheep; to recommend to them to employ a herd to tend ſeveral ſmall flocks joined in one, and each perſon to pay according to his number of ſheep. They will not alter their plan. Moſt of the tenants keep the old track, they ſow Scots barley and oats alternately; few ſow peaſe. It is common to manure 2 or 3 acres annually, by making a fold, and keeping their cattle incloſed there all ſummer and harveſt, except the time they are on paſture in the morning and afternoon. The common Scotch plough is moſtly uſed, and is ſometimes drawn by 10 or 12 ſmall oxen under yoke, ſometimes by 4 horſes, and ſometimes both by oxen and horſes 6 or 8 in number; nay, we are ſtill ſo Gothic in ſome places, that a horſe and an ox are matched together. Some inſtances could be produced of ploughs, of Engliſh conſtruction, drawn by 2 horſes, or by 2 large oxen in traces, without a driver. It is to be regretted, that the inſtances are ſo few.

Of the eſtate of Culter, 100 acres are planted with firs and other trees. Of the eſtate of Counteſſwells, 140 acres are planted with firs, and 10 acres with trees of various kinds.

kinds. A part of Oldfold and Murtle is likewiſe planted. In all of them there is game, as in the plantations of Bingle, and various ſinging birds, the thruſh, linnet, goldfinch, *&c.* In ſevere winters woodcocks are numerous in the woods of Culter. I have heard a ſportſman ſay, that he has, in one day, killed 7 or 8 of them.—As plantations have increaſed, ſheep have decreaſed. There were 7 farms in the lands of Culter and Murtle, on each of which there was a flock of ſheep, and now a ſingle animal of the kind is not to be ſeen on any of them.

There are in the pariſh, of one kind or other, 132 horſes, 79 carts, about 1000 black cattle, 49 ploughs, 2380 ſheep. All the horſes, except about 20, are of a ſmall ſize; and the black cattle and ſheep are generally of a ſmall breed.

The rent of ſome of Mr Gordon's property is L. 3 an acre, of ſome L. 1, 10 s. and of ſome a guinea. Of Mr Watſon's property, only a few acres are let to tenants, who pay a guinea *per* acre. In the lands of Counteſſwells, the rent of an acre of arable land, is, I believe, in general a guinea. Some of the incloſures in graſs, being only 3 or 4 miles from Aberdeen, let at more. In the eſtate of Culter, the rent of an acre of infield * may be 10 s. 15 s. or 20 s.; that of an acre of outfield, 2 s. 6 d. or 1 s.; one would think ſome of it dear at 1 s. The crop many times will not compenſate the expence, and they own it; but they ſay, that they till it to renew the graſs; poor too is that graſs. The valued rent of the pariſh is L. 2163 : 9 : 8 Scots, or L. 180 : 5 : 9¾ Sterling. The real rent is above L. 1200 Sterling; and there are 3 ſalmon-fiſhings belonging to the lands of Culter and Kenarty, whoſe rents amount to L. 50 Sterling, or upwards.

Church,

* The infield bears a ſmall proportion to the outfield, and hill and paſture.

Church, Manſe, Stipend, &c.—In the year 1779, a ſmall elegant church was built, and completely furniſhed with new galleries and ſeats in an uniform manner. Three years prior to this, the manſe got a new ſubſtantial roof. Then, and in 1779, it received other alterations and repairs, which made it, though it be but ſmall, a comfortable habitation. It is built of ſtone and clay, and is ſaid to be more than 100 years old; therefore it cannot long remain tight and ſound, unleſs the exterior coat of plaſter be kept quite entire, by being frequently renewed; already the rain penetrates the wall in ſome places when it blows a ſtorm. About 3 years ago, a complete ſet of new and neat office-houſes was finiſhed in a very ſubſtantial manner.

The ſtipend is L. 38 : 5 : 3 Sterling, 39½ bolls of oatmeal, and 8½ bolls of bear. In this ſtatement I include L. 2, 15 s. or thereabout, allowed for communion-elements, and ſome allowance for graſs-money.

The ground deſtined for meſſuage, or glebe and manſe, *&c.* is below the legal dimenſions. Although preventive methods have been uſed for ſome time back, the river Dee and the water of Culter have made, and do annually make encroachments on the ground allotted for graſs to the miniſter's cattle.

The proprietor of Culter is patron; but the right of property is at preſent diſputed.

School, &c.—Some years ſince the ſchoolmaſter's ſalary was only L. 5 : 11 : 1¼; but the miniſter applied to the heritors and the preſbytery, and got it augmented to L. 8, 6 s. 8 d.; he alſo receives L. 1 : 14 : 2 from a fund left by two of the late proprietors of Culter, Sir Alexander Cuming and Patrick Duff, Eſq; for teaching ſome ſcholars of a certain deſcription; he likewiſe gets L. 2 for acting as ſeſſion-clerk, with ſome other perquiſites, which are but ſmall.

ſmall. By a rule lately eſtabliſhed, he ought to receive 1 s. 6 d. for teaching Engliſh; 2 s. *per* quarter when writing or arithmetic is added; and 2 s. 6 d. each quarter for teaching Latin.

Many in the pariſh complain, that they are far from ſchool, and that their children are not able to go to it. For ſome time I cannot ſay that it was well attended by children near or far off. But we have now got a ſchool-maſter of approved aſſiduity and care, and the number of ſcholars has been doubled. Laſt ſummer there were from 40 to 50 at ſchool at the ſame time. Soon after he took up ſchool in the end of laſt autumn, above 60 ſcholars entered.

Population, &c.—In 1755, according to Dr Webſter, there were 755 ſouls. At preſent, there are 220 families in the pariſh; 456 males, and 546 females, or 1002 ſouls.

Their diviſion, according to age, ſtands thus:

Under 10, -	212	From 50 to 60, -	84
From 10 to 20, -	195	From 60 to 70, -	86
From 20 to 30, -	140	From 70 to 80, -	41
From 30 to 40, -	121	And above 80, -	6
From 40 to 50, -	117		

In the year 1776, and for ſome time after, the number of inhabitants was above 1040. There was then a numerous family in the manſion-houſe of Counteſſwells, and now there is but one ſervant. In Culter-houſe there was lately a throng family; now there are only three ſervants.

Of Artificers or Handicraftſmen,—there are in the pariſh,

Smiths, - - -	2
Wrights, who perform houſe carpentry, cart-work, plough-work, *&c.* - - -	5

Millers, ſome of whom perform cooper-work, *&c.*	4
Gardeners, - - - -	6
Shoemakers, - - -	4
Weavers, - - -	12
Tailors, - - -	10

And one fuller, who ſcours and mills cloth, and can practiſe dying.

From 1773 to 1783 the average of births is 21; from 1783 to 1793 the average is 16; but the accuracy of the regiſter cannot be much depended on. From the beſt information, however, it appears, that this pariſh was more populous 40 or 50 years ſince than it is now. One reaſon is, that 3 lots of the lands belonging to the town of Aberdeen were feued, or given in fee, and a fourth lot was let in leaſe to one tenant; on this lot the number of families is reduced from 14 to 3; from 60 perſons to 20. On the lot of Oldfold only one family reſides; formerly it was inhabited by 5 or 6 families. On the other two lots, Bingle and Mains of Murtle, the number of perſons and families is much the ſame now that it was forty years ago. On Bingle there will be an increaſe ſoon. Another reaſon to be aſſigned for the decreaſe of population is this, many young perſons go to manufacturers and tradeſmen in Aberdeen and its vicinity; there, ſo many hands are employed, and ſo great encouragement is ſometimes given, that whole families migrate thither at once. This does now and then happen, when a farmer raiſes the rent of his crofts, or when any diſcord ariſes. Hence it is, that on ſome farms we find two or three cottages in ruins; and on other farms, ſome cottages in ruins, and ſome of thoſe which are ſtanding, uninhabited.

Of burials and marriages no regiſter is kept. The number of marriages is annually about five. The number of the dead brought hither for interment, from Aberdeen and its

its neighbourhood, exceeds the number of perſons who die within the pariſh.

Parochial Funds.—Our funds for the ſupport of the poor conſiſt of the intereſt of L. 100, the weekly collections in the church, mortcloth-dues, *&c.* The church-ſeſſion have alſo in their management annuities paid from the eſtate of Culter, amounting to L. 6, or more, and a legacy of L. 40, the intereſt of which muſt be paid to the deſcendents of one man and his wife, while they claim it. The liſt of poor contains 30 perſons. They all receive ſome ſhillings at each of three ſtated times of the year. They likewiſe receive occaſional ſupplies, as neceſſity requires. The annual penſion of ſome does not exceed 12 s.; ſome get more than L. 1; and a few of them get more than L. 1, 10 s. The diſtributions, *communibus annis*, exceed L. 30; ſome years they amount to L. 40, with L. 3 or L. 4 to the infirmary of Aberdeen, over and above. By the frequent uſe of hearſes, the income from mortcloths has greatly decreaſed. In the year 1782 and 1783 a conſiderable part of our ſtock was laid out in the purchaſe of meal and grain. By a proper diſtribution of theſe, by a ſmall ſhare of victual ſent by Government, and by donations from Mrs Udny Duff of Culter, and Mrs Irvine of Drum, the poor on the roll were made comfortable, and ſeveral perſons, who had ſuffered by deficient crops, received a ſeaſonable aid. Two or three of the poor only go about as mendicants.

Although there be not at preſent any gentry who attend our church, the collection made on Sabbaths does honour to the charitable ſpirit of the congregation.

Alehouſes, Morals, &c.—In this pariſh there are three houſes where ale and ſpiritous liquors are ſold. Forty years back there were four times that number, and inebriation

briation was too prevalent. Then ale and a few drams conſtituted the treat; now punch is more common. Thoſe three alehouſes ſerve chiefly for the accommodation of travellers, and of perſons who meet to tranſact buſineſs. I do not perceive that they are prejudicial to the morals of the pariſhioners. In this place it is rare to ſee a perſon intoxicated with liquor *.

The

* I do not mean here to affirm, that we are free from exceſs of every kind. All claſſes exceed in the uſe of tea and tobacco, particularly of the latter, as it is conſumed in ſnuffing, chewing, and ſmoking. This laſt ſpecies of coarſe luxury is too much practiſed by both ſexes. I have known ſome perſons ſo much enſlaved to it, that they carried their tobacco-pipe with them on Sunday, for the purpoſe of ſmoking on the way to and from church.

Dr Cullen very properly claſſes tobacco among *ſedatives* or *narcotics*. The ſmoking of it occaſions to beginners fits of ſickneſs, ſevere, although of ſhort duration, and ſometimes proves an emetic. In long practitioners, it produces ſome degree of torpor and low ſpirits, or diſpoſes to ſleep. In melancholy people, it tends to increaſe the diſeaſe. It alſo impairs the eye-ſight, and ſome have thought that it is adverſe to the genial powers.

It is to be regretted that ſo large remittances are ſent from theſe kingdoms, to procure a very pernicious article of luxury. When America was a part of the Britiſh Empire, this branch of commerce was encouraged as a favour done to our colonies. For their ſake, the cultivation of tobacco was prohibited in Britain. One who is but little converſant in politics would think, that this indulgence ought to have terminated with the commencement of the American revolt, or of American independence. But this claims not much attention, if we could be ſupplied with a better ſubſtitute. Such a ſubſtitute might, perhaps, be found in camomile flowers. By mixing them with tobacco in ſmoking, a flavour is produced much more agreeable than that of tobacco alone. I believe that they are applicable to moſt of the uſes to which tobacco may be applied. They are leſs noxious, and poſſeſs more virtues. They are, or they ought to be, an ingredient in the Britiſh herb tobacco, and Britiſh herb ſnuff. By chewing a few of them, a ſlight diſorder of the ſtomach may be removed. In attacks of the wind-colic, many have recourſe to tobacco; camomile flowers are preferable; and the chewing of them might be found uſeful in caſes of dyſpepſy or atrophy.

The people are, in general, active, ſober, and induſtrious, of a humane and peaceable diſpoſition, decent in their behaviour, and come to church clean and decent in their dreſs. In ſome, perhaps, the features of the ſelfiſh principle may be too plainly diſcerned.

I have been nigh 20 years here, and I have not heard of any perſon, belonging to this place, capitally tried; and only of two or three who have been impriſoned or baniſhed.

All the pariſhioners are of the Eſtabliſhed Church, except a very few who are of the Epiſcopal Church, and three or four women who attend the Seceders. A few young perſons do alſo reſort to ſome church, or Chapel of Eaſe at Aberdeen, although it be at a greater diſtance than their pariſh church. It is pretended that they go to hear favourite preachers, thoſe eminent for popularity; but I have heard it alleged, that they are drawn thither by motives not purely of a religious nature.

Manufactures.—The late Mr Duff of Culter granted a long leaſe of ſome acres of ground, cloſe to the public road, and along the burn of Culter, to Mr Bartholomew Smith, an Engliſhman, for the purpoſe of erecting a paper-mill. In the year 1750, Mr Smith erected a mill, with proper edifices and machinery; and on 1ſt January 1751, he commenced the buſineſs of paper making. This was the firſt attempt of the kind in the north, and ſucceeded. The work is now carried on under the direction of Mr Richard Smith, the leſſee's ſon and ſucceſſor, who generally employs ſix men in the different parts of the proceſs. Formerly they manufactured ſuperfine paper, and paper for notes to the Aberdeen bank. I have written on fine poſt paper which was made at this mill, equal in quality to any that I have ever ſeen. At preſent the fabrication is chiefly confined

confined to common paper for printing and writing, to paſteboard, cartridge-paper, and all kinds of wrapping-paper, &c. For all theſe a ready market is found at Aberdeen, where the demand is greater than can be ſupplied by this and the paper-mill on Don. With the machinery of the paper-mill is connected that of a barley-mill.

I cannot help taking notice of the ſituation of this mill, which is beautifully romantic, or might be made ſo. It ſtands in a bottom containing about 6 acres, almoſt ſurrounded by a ſteep hill, the front of which is ſeemingly compoſed of the ſegments of different circles; the burn of Culter rolling along in a ſtraight line, or parabolic curves. The precipice is higheſt on the N. the N. W. and the W. thence declivous towards the ſouth, at which, and the ſouth-eaſt point, there is ſome opening. To the eye, the front of the ſteep would ſeem, in ſome places, to be nearly perpendicular, and the angle of declivity does not exceed 23°. The perpendicular height is, in ſome parts, about 400 feet. A ſtream of water could be carried over a high part of the precipice, and would form a grand caſcade, which, with the planting of the circumjacent ſlopes, would add much to the beauty of the ſcene.

About 5 years ſince, a diſtillery, conſiſting of two ſtills, (each containing 40 gallons), with proper utenſils, was erected in the ſouth-eaſt corner of this pariſh, on the burn of Murtle, nigh to the ſpot where a barley-mill formerly ſtood, and not far from the river Dee. When the duty was raiſed, the buſineſs was interrupted for ſome time; but it is now reſumed by a company at Aberdeen, who proceed briſkly, and make excellent ſpirits. Although the diſtance from Aberdeen be only 5 miles, the ſpirits diſtilled here cannot be carried to that market. Small is the quantity which can be vended within the pariſh, and they muſt therefore try to find merchants acroſs the coun-

try, until ſome alteration ſhall be made in the laws now exiſting relative to diſtilleries.

I ſhall not be thought to digreſs much from the deſign of the ſtatiſtical volumes, when I obſerve, that above fifty years back, in conſequence of an agreement between the late Earl of Fife and the late Mr Duff of Culter, a ſaw-mill was conſtructed on the burn of Culter, at its conflux with the river Dee. Fir-trees were brought down the river to it, from the woods of Braemar, and manufactured. But this work has been diſcontinued theſe 40 years and more; and people ſpeak feelingly of the want of it, becauſe during the time of its ſubſiſtence, the country was well ſupplied with excellent timber.

Stockings are manufactured here for the hoſiers in Aberdeen, as mentioned in the report from Echt.

Roads and Bridges.—Here we cannot boaſt much of the excellence of our roads, although few places afford better materials. Some of the croſs roads are impaſſable to carriages, ſome of them too bad for foot travellers, and ſeveral parts of the public road to Aberdeen ſtand in great need of repairs. By the exertions of Mrs Udny Duff, during two years before her death, ſome part of it was made tolerable, and ſome bad ſteps were mended. Before her, the late Mr Burnett of Counteſſwells was zealous in the ſame cauſe. Through his own eſtate he got croſs roads made, which are now very ſerviceable. As he was a gentleman of a benevolent and public ſpirit, and was called away in the vigour of life, his death might have been conſidered as a public loſs.

The Aberdeen road had at firſt been ill projected. To travellers it preſents an emblem of the elevations and depreſſions which frequently occur in the journey of life. So much

much aſcent and deſcent, in ſo quick ſucceſſion, and in a ſpace of ſo few miles, can ſcarce be met with in any other road. Some gentlemen in the neighbourhood, ſenſible of this inconvenience, have thought of planning out another road, in a ſhorter line and a more level tract. But the execution will be laborious and expenſive, and to raiſe a ſufficient fund would be ſomewhat difficult. The moſt eligible reſource, perhaps, would be, to obtain an act for eſtabliſhing turnpikes.

I cannot finiſh this article without mentioning, that few perſons perform the ſtatute-work on the roads, and ſome are ſo unwilling to pay the commutation-money, which is low, that recourſe muſt ſometimes be had to the taking of pledges. Yet the generality clamour more than enough about the badneſs of the roads, particularly of the roads which lead to church. There may indeed be ſome cauſe of complaint, if what I have heard be true, that ſome years the commutation-money has been collected through whole diſtricts, and none of it applied to the making or repairing of roads.

As one travels along, he cannot help being offended at ſeeing ſeveral cart-loads of ſmall ſtones, which had been gathered off the fields, thrown into a pit or ditch at the road-ſide, when they might have been better diſpoſed of to fill up pits and ruts, and broken places in the middle of the road. I am of opinion, that the farmers would readily apply their gleanings in that manner, if any gentleman, who takes a concern in the public roads, would expreſs a wiſh for its being done.

There are two arched ſtone-bridges in this pariſh. One of them is over Leuchar-burn, near its junction with Gormack-burn, on the road leading from Aberdeen to part of Cromar, *&c.* It is in bad repair. A part of the battlements or parapet is fallen down; ſo that a beaſt and cart

fell

fell over it, more than 15 years ago, and both were deſtroyed. It was built in 1608, and repaired in 1710. It has both theſe dates. Near to this bridge are the remains of a rampart called the guard dike. Tradition informs, that a ſtrong guard of armed men was ſtationed here, to prevent all communication between the ſound and the infected, while the plague raged in Aberdeen and its environs, about 130 years ago.

The other bridge is over the burn of Culter, on the Deeſide road, a little below the paper-mill. This is a good ſufficient bridge, and in good repair. It does not bear any date, but it had been widened above 40 years ſince. Formerly it did not eaſily admit carriages, for it had been built before they were much uſed in this country.

Cloſe to the lower ſide of this bridge, there is a rock on each ſide of the burn, projecting a little, and inviting, one would think, to throw an arch over there. The ſummit of the rock is more than 30 feet above the bed of the river. If a bridge had been conſtructed on that foundation, it would have added ſome grandeur to the aſpect of the place; the public road might have been ſhortened; and a ſteep aſcent might have been avoided. That aſcent is, by much labour, now made eaſier.

There are other two arched * ſtone bridges; each of which has the ſite of one pillar in this pariſh, and of the other in the pariſh of Dalmaik. One of them is over Garvock-burn, on the road leading to the houſe of Drum; the other, which is a very ſmall one, is over a rivulet, on the road leading to the manſe and church of Dalmaik, two or three paces from the miniſter's garden.

* There are ſeveral bridges in this pariſh compoſed of long ſtones laid horizontally, and ſupported at each end by a ſtone wall.

Thunder and Lightning. — On Saturday, 10th July 1779, we were viſited here by a fatal thunder-ſtorm. The morning of that day was bright and hot. At noon the hemiſphere was overcaſt. A ſtorm gathered in the north, and made its progreſs ſouthward over this place. About 3 o'clock the exploſion of the thunder-cloud, then vertical to us, was tremendous indeed. At that inſtant, a farmer's ſon with two ſervants were loading their carts, on a heath about a mile ſouth, with ſtones for building the church. The two ſervants, and two of the horſes were killed. The farmer's ſon was ſtruck to the ground, and remained ſome time in a ſtate of inſenſibility. Next evening the two ſervants were buried here in one grave. A ſtone was ſet up at the fatal ſpot, with the initials of their names.

The ancient poet's verſes may be philoſophic, but are not ſufficiently deſcriptive of the thunder-ſtorm which I have mentioned:

" Fulgit item, nubes ignis cum ſemina multa
" Excuſſere ſuo concurſu, ceu lapidem ſi
" Percutiat lapis, aut ferrum; nam tum quoque lumen
" Exſilit, et claras ſcintillas diſſipat ignis,
" Sed tonitru fit, uti poſt auribus accipiamus,
" Fulgere quam cernant oculi, quia ſemper ad aures
" Tardius adveniunt, quam viſum quæ moveant res."

Lucret. lib. 6.

" Quick lightning flies, when heavy clouds ruſh on,
" And ſtrike, as ſteel and flint, or ſtone and ſtone;
" For then ſmall ſparks appear, and ſcatter'd light
" Breaks ſwiftly forth, and wakes the ſleepy night.

" The

* Hic iterum ſitus eſt Cancri, cum ſidere Phœbus
Solſtitium facit, et ſummo verſatur Olympo.

Paſt ſummer ſolſtice, Phœbus had borne the day
Through Cancer's ſign, and driven the higheſt way.

" The flaſh firſt ſtrikes the eye, and then we hear
" The clap, which does more ſlowly reach the ear;
" For light, and images of things, ſtill fly
" More ſwift than ſound, and quicker ſtrike the eye."

The clap of thunder I have mentioned was awfully loud, and was preceded by a vivid ſtream of fire; both together impreſſive of that ſolemn period, when *the ſeven thunders ſhall utter their voices.* But leſt I ſhould offend any, in this age of new philoſophy, by a quotation from the ſacred page, I beg leave to preſent to their view, a few lines from the fore-cited author:

" Cui non animus formidine divûm
" Contrahitur? Cui non correpunt membra pavore,
" Fulminis horribili cum plaga torridâ tellus
" Contremit, et magnum percurrunt murmura cœlum?
" Non populi, gentesque tremunt? regesque ſuperbi
" Corripiunt divûm perculſi membra timore,
" Ne quod ob admiſſum fœdè, dictumve ſuperbe,
" Pœnarum grave ſit ſolvendi tempus adactum?

Lucret. lib. 5.

" What mind's not ſhaken? and what ſoul not aw'd?
" And who but thinks the angry gods abroad?
" Whoſe limbs don't ſhrink, when dreadful thunder hurl'd,
" Roars in the clouds, and ſhakes the frighted world?
" What do not cities, do not nations fear,
" When diſmal deſolation ſeems ſo near?
" Then do not tyrant kings and haughty lords,
" Repent their wicked deeds and boaſtful words?
" Do they not tremble at approaching doom,
" And fear their dreaded puniſhment is come."

Creech altered.

Antiquities,

Antiquities.—The hill where the two men were killed by lightning, is commonly called the Hill of the Old-town. It does not riſe to a great height, and has a pretty extenſive plain on the top, partly cultivated. On the N. E. end is the farm of Oldtown, and the farm of Hilltown on the S. W. end. Betwixt them lies a heath. On the N. W. ſide of it, a wall and ditch run from N. E. to S. W. about 3 quarters of a mile, along the ſlope of the hill, which is there ſeparated from the public road by a ſmall valley. From each end of this wall, and almoſt at right angles to it, ramparts had been carried S. E. towards the river Dee, which is about a mile diſtant from the angular points. Farm-houſes, huts, folds, and tillage, render theſe ramparts indiſtinct; but it is manifeſt that they had not been carried all the way to the river. The inequality and rocky nature of the ground would have rendered that a difficult work. It is probable that there were then thickets and places of boſcage on the river ſide, and they might have cut down trees to complete the barricade in theſe parts. At the N. E. and S. W. angles, there had been half-moon work conſtructed. The top of the bank is, in ſome places, 8 or 9 feet above the bottom of the ditch. In moſt places the height is about 6 feet. But in the courſe of centuries, much of the wall muſt have tumbled down, and much of the ditch muſt have been filled up.

No hiſtory, to which I have acceſs, makes mention of this military work. Tradition has done no more than tranſmitted ſome names. The rampart is called "Nor-"man's dike;" half cultivated lands adjacent to it, are called "The Norman faughs." A large fountain, cloſe to the eaſtern rampart, bears the name of "Norman's well." Theſe names, together with the form and ſituation of the work, ſerve to ſhew that it has been a Daniſh encampment. For we know that the Danes and Norwegians invaded France

France in the 8th century. They entered the Seine and the Loire in their boats, and plundered the country to the gates of Paris. At length the French were forced to resign Normandy and Britany to Rollo, their general, *anno* 876. After that, they were frequently called Normans. *Norman*, too, was ſometimes the name of their generals or chiefs. About the ſame time, they haraſſed the coaſts of Britain, and continued their invaſions to the 11th century. In ſome of their lateſt deſcents, it is likely that they had penetrated into this country, and formed the encampment which I have mentioned. Conſidering the nature of the country, the poſition was well choſen. Few places, ſo near the public road, and of ſo great extent, could be ſo eaſily fortified, or take in ſo diſtinct and ſo wide a proſpect.

Some think that it might have been an encampment of William the Conqueror. He was, indeed, at war with Scotland, for ſome time preceding the peace concluded in 1072; but hiſtorians ſay, that his armies never came farther into the north than the town of Perth.

Advantages and Diſadvantages.—Farmers and crofters, and cottagers, are near to a good market, for what they have to ſell; but perſons who need to buy, pay as high a price for poultry, eggs, milk, *&c.* as is paid at the market-croſs of Aberdeen. The price of labour is generally the ſame here and in town. It is an advantage to be near to a good ſea-port, eſpecially to thoſe who carry lime to their farms. It may ſoon be found an advantage to all claſſes, if coals ſhall become their general firing; and that period does not ſeem to be very diſtant. If people could be reconciled to the uſe of coals, and were accuſtomed to the proper management of them, they would find them cheaper firing now than peat and turf; and although plantations become

become frequent, it has not yet been found that wood is very cheap firing.

A diſadvantage ariſes to our farmers from the nature of the ſoil. Thin and ſteril, it is ſoon over-run with heath, whins, or broom, when it is left ley; I ſay, when it is unploughed and unſowed. The uſe of lime does not afford a remedy; and marl, as far as I know, has not been diſcovered in any part of this country. To this noxious tendency of the ſoil, it will hardly be thought a ſufficient counterbalance, that young broom is uſed for thatching houſes inſtead of ſtraw; that old broom and old whins ſerve for fuel; and young whins, properly prepared, make excellent food for cattle, particularly for horſes; ſheep are very fond of them. One would think that their wool might be improved by ſuch aliment. All vegetables contain a ſalt and an oil, ſome more, ſome leſs; whins ſeem to contain a good deal of both. Certain it is, that when horſes are fed with bruiſed whins, they get a ſleek glittering pile, and grow plump and agile. The ſame effect is produced by giving them feeds of boiled corn, mixed with ſalt. On this principle it is, that ſome farmers, when they ſtack their hay, ſtrew ſalt on the different ſtrata. The ſuperior fineneſs of Spaniſh wool is generally acknowledged. It is well known that the ſhepherds of that country lay ſlates with ſalt on them over the paſture-ground, and the ſheep, as they go along, lick up the ſalt. I have been informed, that in ſome places, barren ſpots, after being pretty well cleared of ſtones, are ſowed with whins, which are mowed down with a ſcythe, at a proper age, and bruiſed for food to cattle. In the year 1775, the crop on Dee ſide, after a dry ſpring and ſummer, was far from being luxuriant; it is yet diſtinguiſhed as the year of the ſhort crop; in the ſucceeding winter and ſpring, almoſt every body had recourſe to whins for provender to their cattle. Some

prepared them by threſhing them with flails, others by beating them with mallets in a ſtone trough. This is preferable to threſhing, eſpecially if the mallets be hooped or caped with iron. But theſe methods are tedious and toilſome, and many might have a machine moved by water for executing this work. Here a queſtion occurs, *viz.* What kind of a machine would be fitteſt for the purpoſe? The only one hitherto tried, is conſtructed on the model of a waulkmill or fullingmill. With ſome alterations and improvements it might anſwer the end; but I am of opinion, that two thick weighty mill-ſtones, to go upon their edge, like to thoſe uſed in oil-mills for bruiſing linſeed, would anſwer better.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—It is thought impolitic to allow corporations and ſocieties to purchaſe much land, and there ſeems to be a general prejudice againſt it; becauſe, when they get poſſeſſion of any heritage, they retain it. This is conſidered as a bar to that rotation of property ſo beneficial to ſociety, and ſo favourable to the ſpirit of enterprize. If this prejudice cannot be removed, it may be diminiſhed, by conſidering, that although corporations ſeldom make an entire and unreſerved ſale of their property, they frequently make a partial diſpoſal of their right, when they feu, or let their lands in fee; for this gives a perpetual right to the feuer, or holder, and his heirs, on paying a certain yearly rent. But it is generally required, that he ſink a particular ſum, or pay down ſome hundreds of pounds as a gratuity, at the concluſion of the bargain, more or leſs, according to the value and extent of the land. Thus there ariſes a twofold property: A fixed annual ſum is paid to the corporation, as original proprietor or ſuperior; but they have no concern with the land nor the tenants.

The

The holder has as full and indiſputable a right to theſe as in caſes of fee-ſimple.

This kind of conveyance is attended with ſeveral advantages. The gentlemen who take the lands in fee do, for the moſt part, lay out money largely and judiciouſly, in trenching, draining, fencing, planting, manuring, &c. Large tracts, formerly uſeleſs and rugged, are ſoon converted into fruitful and pleaſant fields. Labourers find healthful employment. Tenants are furniſhed with crofts, or ſmall farms, in a more improved ſtate than thoſe around them; and although the rent of an acre be three or four times as much as the rent of an acre in the common ſtate of cultivation, they have a better bargain. Much has been done by gentlemen feuers in this pariſh, as has been already mentioned; and in the neighbouring pariſh of Skene, a conſiderable extent of land having been lately let in fee by ſocieties in Aberdeen, the face of a rough bleak country is in ſeveral places much altered to the better.

On property of the ſame kind around Aberdeen, we, year after year, behold villas riſing, and various improvements going forward. About 40 years back, the vicinity of that town exhibited a proſpect as wild and barren as can be well imagined, conſiſting of rocks, marſhes, ſtony heaths, and ſpots over-run with broom, briars, thorns, and whins. Now it preſents us with a beautiful landſcape, of ſmall neat houſes, gardens, nurſeries, plantations, bleachfields, fine cornfields, &c. It is to be preſumed, that ſuch beneficial alterations had not taken place, if the ground had belonged to private proprietors, becauſe they ſeldom or never let any part of their lands in fee; a method of transferring property, which well ſuits gentlemen who like rural amuſements, but do not chuſe to lay out much money on land. This country is often infeſted with vagrants of various deſcriptions, who, by threats or otherwiſe, compel people to give

them

them money, and the beſt *vivres* their houſes afford. They likewiſe pick up poultry, apparel, and what they can lay hold of. Their exactions are oppreſſive, their numbers often formidable, and it hurts the feelings of the humane to ſee ſo many young perſons trained up to the ſame pernicious courſes. It has been propoſed to build a correction and work houſe for this ſhire, and the ſhire of Banff. The gentlemen of both counties have taken ſome ſteps to forward this laudable meaſure, and all the families in the country have reaſon to wiſh them ſucceſs. It is to be hoped, that the more public concerns of the nation will ſoon permit them to pay more attention to matters of internal police.

Language.—The pronunciation uſed by ſome old perſons here is very broad. *Second* they pronounce *ſhocond*; *cough*, *keuogh*, *&c.* gh and ch are ſounded gutturally.

I think that language and pronunciation improve; but there are peculiarities obſervable on the banks of Dee and Don, and the interjacent diſtrict. In words ending in *and*, the *d* gets the faint ſound of *th*, *a* that of the diphthong *au*, and the whole is naſal; thus, *land*, *launth*; *ſand*, *ſaunth*, *&c.* *Ale* is pronouced *ail*; *ſale*, *ſail*; and ſo of ſimilar words.

Wheelbarrow, *pronounced* Wheeborrow.
Board, ——— Beerd.
Peaſe, ——— Pizz.
Hid, ——— Hudd.

They have alſo peculiar contractions, *viz. cartful*, *cartill*; *potful*, *pottle*; *&c.*

They uſe the word *frugal* in the ſenſe generally applied to the word *liberal.*

A *nuce*, or *neſs* family, means a deſtitute family.

I have heard it ſometimes aſſerted, and never denied, that the river Dee appears as large, and contains as much water at Kincardine, as here, or at the bridge of Dee, a courſe of 24 miles, in which it receives conſiderable additions. This obſervation muſt ſuppoſe, that the river is as rapid at Kincardine as it is here, or at the bridge of Dee; and then it remains to be conſidered, on what principle the fact is to be explained. Say ſome, on the principle of evaporation. But it is well known, that in the ſame climate, the quantity of water evaporated in the ſame time, is in proportion to the ſurface expoſed; and therefore the ſame cauſe would produce the ſame effect in other rivers. As the Dee runs upon a gravelly and ſandy bottom, it is probable that ſome of the water ſinks, and finds a ſubterraneous paſſage.

At certain ſeaſons, when the river is in a proper ſtate, ſeveral rafts are floated down. The rafts are formed about 7 or 8 miles above this. Farther up, ſingle trees only can be floated down the river, becauſe of the rocks, ſhallows, cataracts, *&c.* which occur.

It has been obſerved by others, that the river Dee frequently overflows the contiguous flats. In autumn 1789, the Haugh of Murtle, meaſuring 26 Scots acres, was covered with a deep current, and the whole crop, computed at more than 150 bolls of oats, was carried away by the river, the firſt night after it was cut down. The crop of this Haugh is often expoſed to a ſimilar fate. Some years ago, the late Mr Burnett of Counteſſwells, and Captain Henderſon of Newton raiſed an embankment, at their joint expence, acroſs the head of a Haugh, with a view to ſecure their flats below. This work has been uſeful, but has not prevented the ravages of an high inundation. In the year 1790, not only a part of the crop of the Haugh of Murtle was carried down, but alſo the crop of the Haugh of Cults, which

which is below the embankment. About two miles below this Haugh, a good deal of corn was taken out of the river, cared for, and ſtacked; it was claimed by the tenant, who poſſeſſed a part of the Haugh of Cults, and whoſe crop was then carried away; but the man who ſaved the corn would not give it up. This was a ſubject of litigation before the Sheriff, until the litigants found it expedient to terminate the diſpute over a glaſs. The latter part of the narrative may, perhaps, need an apology, becauſe it relates to another pariſh.

A long time ſince, the river Dee had, for the ſpace of a quarter of a mile, entirely ſhifted its channel, a little below this church, and cut through a part of the eſtate of Culter. Formerly, the whole of that eſtate, and of this pariſh, was ſituated north of the river, which was the boundary. Now, a ſmall farm, belonging to the eſtate of Culter, is ſouth of the river. This farm is called the Inſch, and had long been an iſland. Here is a ſalmon-fiſhing, which yields about L. 40 Sterling of yearly rent. The old channel was lately very diſtinct, but is now divided betwixt the two neighbouring proprietors, and put into a ſtate of cultivation. I cannot learn from record or tradition the exact time when the courſe of the river was altered; but, according to the beſt information which I have got, it cannot be leſs than two centuries back. This had probably happened when a gentle thaw ſucceeded a long and intenſe froſt, when there was water enough to break and float the ice, but not enough to carry it over the ſhallows; at theſe it ſticks and ſtops the current, which recoils, and carries back the ice with amazing force and velocity; the channel is crammed with ſheets of ice; many are thrown at ſome diſtance, and the water ſhifts its courſe. About 12 years ſince, the ice was repelled in this manner up the river Dee, and from it, up the burn of Culter, ſo that it was thrown

over

over my garden wall, 8 feet high, and 300 paces from the river. A thriving hedge, and ſome thriving young trees, were cruſhed to the ground.

Eels.—A great number of young eels, of the common ſpecies, make an annual proceſſion up this river, which may be claſſed among thoſe wonders with which nature abounds. Impreſſed with the ideas which this phœnomenon at firſt excited, I beg leave to give a ſhort account of it. The time of their appearing varies according to the nature of the ſeaſon, and the ſtate of the river. It is ſeldom earlier than the middle of May, nor later than the middle of June. About 15 years ago, when I firſt obſerved them, they came in the firſt week of June; there was then ſome flood in the river, and the eels kept near to the bank, and near the ſurface of the water. They proceeded in regular rows, cloſe to each other, and 7 eels in a row. The arrangement and movement of the whole ſeemed to reſemble that order which is the effect of diſcipline. They continued running three days. They were moſt numerous the firſt day; fewer, almoſt by one half, the ſecond; and on the third day, they came up only in a ſtraggling manner. They were 9 inches long, and 3-4ths of an inch round.

This year, (1794), the ſeaſon being mild, and the river low, the eels made their appearance 15th May; but they were not above half the ſize of the former, and leſs regular in their ranking and moving. They continued to run four days, with ſome intermiſſion on the 16th and 17th, but very numerous towards the evening of the 18th May. Many of them kept near to the edge of the river, eſpecially where there is a rapid current; but ſeveral ſeemed to be ſcattered all over the breadth of the river: For this year I obſerved more go up the burn of Culter than I could diſcern,

cern in the river, the burn being always rapid, all of them muſt keep cloſe to the edge. Here it is neceſſary to remark, that when they come to the mouth of a burn or rivulet, ſo many ſwim up theſe ſtreams, and the reſt proceed in their courſe up the river. I am informed, that they can by inſtinct diſtinguiſh thoſe burns and rivulets which have their ſource in lakes, moraſſes, or peat-moſſes, from thoſe ſtreams which derive their chief ſupply from fountains; and that the latter are little frequented by them. They go up Culter burn in great numbers, and proceed up Leuchar burn, a branch of it, to the loch of Skene. They return in harveſt; and the particular time of their regreſs varies likewiſe, according to the nature of the ſeaſon. In different years it may be variouſly reckoned from the laſt week of Auguſt to the end of October; ſome of them are at this time an ell in length. Theſe have probably continued in the loch or burn more than one ſeaſon, for their length in general does not exceed two feet. Tenants who live on the banks of a burn ſometimes build a fiſh-garth, or dam, with an opening to receive a kind of oſier baſket, or what they call an hoſe-net for catching fiſh. They catch ſome trout and ſome pike, but eels in great abundance, at the ſeaſon of their returning to the ſea, and ſometimes cure them in large earthen jars, or in ſmall caſks for winter proviſion. I have been told that, in the beginning of ſummer, the young eels are to be ſeen in the river in ſhoals, filling the water, like the herring, from top to bottom; this I have never obſerved. But when a ſtrong flood and contrary wind retard their progreſs, many of them go up ſmall rivulets, and more of them than would fill a buſhel or two are ſometimes collected at the foot of a bank or precipice; many of theſe cannot return to the river, and ſerve for food to ducks and other aquatics, or any piſcivorous animals. For like cauſes, the eels may be collected

lected in this manner, in dead water at the edge of the river, which probably gave riſe to the opinion of their proceeding in ſhoals.

Struck with the appearance of the eels when I firſt obſerved them, I made an attempt to calculate what number might paſs in a day, or in a ſeaſon, and found it to be leſs than I at firſt imagined. Having only made an obſervation or two, I am not ſupplied with ſufficient data for accuracy; but I ſhall compute by my firſt obſervation. Some aſſert that 2 eels, at leaſt, paſs in one ſecond: Say 3 in 2 ſeconds, or 90 in a minute; and there being 7 in a row, the number is 630 in a minute, or 37,800 in an hour; which, being doubled for both ſides of the river, makes 75,600 in an hour, or 1,814,400 in a natural day; the half of which might be added for the ſecond day, and an eight part more for the third day. Another conceit occupied my mind, and that was, what number there might be at once betwixt this and the mouth of the river, a ſpace of 10 miles, ſuppoſing both ſides of the river covered as *per* obſervation firſt, the ranks cloſe, 7 in each rank, and each of them 9 inches long? But I ſhall not tranſgreſs farther on the reader's patience with this theory or calculation. I ſhall only remark, that the number which appears here muſt be leſs than at ſome diſtance below this, becauſe ſo many of them make their way up every rill and burn which runs into the river.

It is ſcarce neceſſary to mention, that eels make a like annual proceſſion up every river, water, and rivulet, which diſembogues into the ſea.

Whimſical Diviſion of Pariſhes.—Sometimes a part of a pariſh lies on each ſide of the river, although there be no bridge, and the communication by boat be frequently impracticable. Generally the pariſh-churches ſtand on the banks

banks of the river, when it is the boundary, and little attention has been paid to the convenience of the pariſhioners. They had been built when Popery was the eſtabliſhed religion, and care was taken that the clergy ſhould not want fiſh in time of Lent.

Sometimes the church ſtands in one of the remoteſt corners of the pariſh. Mary Culter was lately an inſtance of this, and the church was hard by the ſeat of the principal heritor. Dalmaik is another inſtance; but the church is at a conſiderable diſtance from the ſeat of the principal and only reſiding heritor. The ſituation of that church is peculiarly ſingular. A narrow ſtrip of the pariſh runs down about a quarter of a mile to the N. E. betwixt the river and a wing of this pariſh; on the N. E. point of this ſtrip the church and manſe are built. The miniſter's peat-ſtack, ſome of his office-houſes, and the half of the glebe, are in this pariſh; the other half of the miniſter's glebe is in his own pariſh, and, as far as it extends to the weſtward, takes in the whole breadth of that part of the pariſh. Several of the pariſhioners, in travelling the direct road to their own church, paſs through a part of this pariſh. Some farms in Dalmaik and in Durris pay ſtipend to the miniſter of Banchory Ternan, and theſe farms are called *Half Pariſh*. It would ſeem that the time was, when the parſon of Banchory poſſeſſed ſuperior influence, and got a ſlice off the living of his two neighbours. Some farms on the boundary of this pariſh and Banchory Davinick pay ſtipend to both miniſters, and they too are called half-pariſh. But there is a farm in this pariſh, of an internal ſituation, which pays ſtipend to the miniſter of Banchory Davinick. It is in the eſtate, and near to the manſion-houſe of Culter, not above a mile and a quarter from our church, but nigh to four miles from the church of Banchory, and on a different ſide of the river. We have not records old enough to il-

luſtrate the cauſe of this annexation; but I beg leave to offer a conjecture. It had probably taken place during the eſtabliſhment of Popery, and the farm of Glaiſterberry had then been in the poſſeſſion of a feudal baron, who, being accuſtomed to command in the field, could not brook the control of a rigid eccleſiaſtic. The clergyman of the pariſh had probably ſummoned him to ſatisfy for ſome offence; but the baron not deigning to ſubmit to the ſtrictneſs of his diſcipline, found means to get himſelf and his dependents put under the care of the neighbouring prieſt. Hence, the ſtipend received by the miniſter of Banchory from the farm of Glaiſterberry, is ſaid to be paid *pro cura animarum*. A change of juriſdiction, ſimilar to this, has been ſometimes effected in matters civil as well as eccleſiaſtical. It is well known, that when the family of Cromarty ſet up a rivalſhip to the family of Seaforth, they had influence enough with the Scotch Parliament to get a part of the ſhire of Roſs detached, and formed into a new county, now called the ſhire of Cromarty. To cauſes of a like nature it is, perhaps, owing, that the natural boundary of ſhires, commiſſariots, *&c.* has been altered, and that ſome eſtates, lying on the north ſide of the river Dee, are now in the ſhire of Mearns.

The ſame ſpirit which I ſuppoſe to have actuated the baron of Glaiſterberry, is ſtill predominant in many. Several years ago, a clergyman here gave a very general and gentle rebuke to a company, who came into church about the middle of the ſermon. One of them was ſo much affronted, that he never returned to his pariſh-church, and has put himſelf under the care of another paſtor. If he poſſeſſed influence, he would, no doubt, carry ſome of the ſtipend away with him too, and get his ſeceſſion juſtified by ſanction.

I fear, that a democratical and levelling ſpirit lurks in the breaſt of too many. Of thoſe who have any religion, each

each family, or ſmall number of families, if they could afford it, would have their own teachers; and many of thoſe who have little or no religion, would readily aſſent to the abolition of the clerical order, if they could, like the French Convention, withdraw ſtipend and payment for all forms of worſhip whatſoever. They would aboliſh the common week, and ſubſtitute the conventional decade; a plan of profit and of loſs, by which maſters do every year gain the labour of ſixteen days, and ſervants are deprived of as many days of reſt. The next ſtep may be, to take away days of reſt altogether. By a daſh of conventional authority, they have ſubverted the law of order and ſubordination, which is the law of heaven: They have annihilated the mutual obligations of maſter and ſervant, parent and child, ſovereign and ſubject; and thus they have oppoſed the appointment of God. For, although it be common with many in great towns, to laugh at the laws of their country, and the religion of their Maker, yet moſt of us acknowledge the authority of the ſacred oracles, and we learn from them, that the "powers which be are appointed by God;" and we infer, that they are appointed for wiſe reaſons: Among other reaſons, for the following; that the reſpect and obedience due to earthly maſters may be improved into reverence and reſignation towards our Maſter in Heaven; that the filial affections may riſe into the warmeſt gratitude, the moſt entire confidence, and ſupreme love towards the inviſible, the univerſal, and moſt beneficent Parent; and that the loyalty and allegiance due to the lawful ſovereigns of this world, may be advanced into unſhaken fidelity and entire ſubmiſſion to the Almighty Sovereign of all worlds, who will bring *the ſovereignty of the people*, as well as thrones and dominions, into ſubjection under Him.

One claſs of duties is ſubſervient to another; and the ſame oracles of unerring wiſdom put the queſtion, "he

" that loveth not his brother, whom he hath ſeen; how can " he love God, whom he hath not ſeen;" *his brother*, who is daily preſented to his ſenſes, to raiſe his eſteem, and move his kindneſs or compaſſion towards him. I leave it to the reader to apply the ſentiment to the different relations of life. Our religion is adapted to our frame. In its ordinances and precepts, we are conſidered as creatures who are influenced by external impreſſions, and by objects which are viſible, we are led to thoſe which are inviſible. Whatever excellence or amiable quality we perceive in ruler, friend, or parent, we are ſure that the great Supreme is poſſeſſed of theſe, and of every perfection in an infinite degree. Whatever weakneſs or depravity we diſcern in ourſelves or others, we know that from theſe, and from every kind of imperfection, He is infinitely removed. Him we conſider as the Giver of every noble and uſeful talent, as the Inſpirer of every virtue. Thus we are led to pay to Him the tribute of gratitude, adoration, and obedience, and to commit ourſelves, with unreſerved confidence to his protection and care. From his goodneſs and mercy we derive conſolation and joy in the time of adverſity, and paſs through the changes of life unappalled by danger, unſubdued by diſtreſs.

We frequently hear of the tyranny and extravagance of ariſtocrates, and are told, that " ſome people are all quality, " made up of nothing but title and genealogy; that the " view of their ideal dignity defaces in them the very cha- " racter of humanity, and makes them inſolent and op- " preſſive." Amongſt ſuch declaimers, however, we ſhall find haughtineſs and inſolence enough, and ſuch a degree of an obſtinate, ſelf-ſufficient ſpirit, that they reckon it below them to exerciſe either good nature or good manners; and were they poſſeſſed of power, little humanity could be ex-

pected

pected from them. They would be well pleaſed to ſee ariſtocrates reduced to *their* level, but could not bear to think of inferiors riſing and ranking with themſelves. Of this claſs there are ſome who rail againſt the arbitrary meaſures of Government, and are, at the ſame time, as abſolute in the exerciſe of the little power they have, as any potentate in Europe; and we may yet wonder with the ancient Dramatiſt,

——— Dii voſtram fidem?
Itan' comparatam eſſe hominum naturam omnium,
Aliena ut melius videant, et dijudicent
Quam ſua? *Terent. Heaut.*

Bleſs me! What an odd compoſition men are of! that they ſhould ſee farther, and judge better of other peoples matters and manners than their own!

Sometimes the cry is, "We have an expenſive govern-"ment, a corrupt adminiſtration, and a degenerating con-"ſtitution." With ſeveral perſons, theſe may be only words of courſe. They hear other men inveigh againſt government, and they believe that any one may do the ſame. But ſuch language muſt, on ſome occaſions, be conſidered as a ſymptom of political diſeaſe, and an indication of revolutionary principles. It is juſtly deemed baſe, and highly criminal to traduce a private perſon; and I cannot well comprehend how it has been thought ſo innocent to malign thoſe who bear offices of public truſt, dignity and importance. In the fair way of eſtimating crimes, this ought to be branded as complicated guilt. Amongſt other heinous tranſgreſſors, *who are reſerved to the day of judgment to be puniſhed*, the Apoſtle Peter mentions them who *deſpiſe government*; who deſpiſe the authority of their governors; *preſumptuous*, or daring, *and ſelf-willed, they are not afraid to ſpeak evil of dignities*; to rail at perſons in authority.

authority. The guilt is greatly aggravated by the tendency of ſuch language, and the effect which it produces; ſuch as prejudices and unfavourable impreſſions, a ſpirit of diſloyalty and diſcontent, which lead to faction and conſpiracy. All this the railers againſt government have generally in view. Such perſons may aſſume the name of *patriots* and *friends* of the people; but they muſt furniſh us with a new gloſſary before we can underſtand them. To the word *patriot*, we muſt not affix the antiquated idea of one who is a lover, a diſintereſted benefactor of his country; but we muſt underſtand by it, one who ſtudies to embarraſs public meaſures, to oppoſe or elude the laws, and ſometimes to embroil the ſtate. If we take our definition of patriots from that claſs of men on the continent, we muſt add, they are thoſe men who trample on the laws of equity, alienate property from its rightful owners, ſeize on public funds, transfer as much of them as they can to their own uſe, and apply the reſt to the purpoſes of murder, bribery, and luxury; or, in other words, men who attempt to miſlead the people by ſophiſms and pompous ſounds, cajole them with vain hopes, and perſuade them to ſacrifice their ſafety and peace, and to engage in ravage and maſſacre; men who would hurry multitudes of people out of the world, or make them miſerable while they are in it, and all this to promote the intereſted views of a junto; views of ambition and aggrandiſement, perhaps of malice and reſentment.

They who complain ſo much of the inſolence of ariſtocrates, and the deſpotiſm of rulers, ſhould conſider what kind of rulers they are like to have, if the revolution, ſo much deſired, took place. In fermentations and ebullitions the ſcum riſes to the top; and in every revolution, which, like that of France, is the work of democracy, the vileſt and the worſt thruſt themſelves into places of power. Without remorſe they contrive, and without reſtraint they

purſue

purſue ſuch rapacious, oppreſſive, and bloody meaſures, as muſt ſhock any feeling heart.

Amongſt our ſelf-conceited politicians, another topic of declamation is, "the folly of involving us in a war ſo expenſive and unneceſſary, and ſending troops to aſſiſt the Dutch, when they did not want our aſſiſtance." That there are Jacobins and malecontents in Holland, as well as in Britain, needs not to be doubted; one would even be led to think, that there were a correſpondence betwixt them, elſe how could the ſentiments of the Dutch have been known ſo well and ſo early amongſt us? Theſe gentlemen will not pretend, however, to have been admitted into the ſecret counſels of the two cabinets; nor can they affirm, that the *Dutch government* did not want our aſſiſtance. By their ſending an army into the field, to co-operate with us and the other allies, they gave an irrefragable proof of the contrary. It has been ſhown by writers on the ſubject, that we were bound by treaty to defend them. We were called to do it by a principle of common honeſty. Beſides, to defend the Dutch was, in effect, to defend ourſelves, according to that well known maxim of antiquity,

> Nam tua res agitur, paries cum proximus ardet:
> Et neglecta ſolent incendia ſumere vires.
>
> When your next neighbour's houſe is all a flame,
> If you neglect it, yours will be the ſame.
> Fires neglected increaſing ſtrength acquire;
> Cities they ſack, and level the lofty ſpire.

When a neighbour's houſe or his field is on fire, one ought to do all he can to extinguiſh it, for the ſafety of his own. If the next houſe is in *danger* of fire, he ought to do all in his power to prevent it. This is ſuggeſted to us by the general principle of ſelf-preſervation. It is the dictate of common policy and of common ſenſe. The Dutch navy,

navy, and naval ſtores, would be a great acquiſition to the French; the Dutch ſailors would be a much greater; and Britain ought to make every exertion in order to prevent their getting ſuch an acceſſion to their marine.

Thoſe perſons who exclaim ſo vehemently againſt the preſent war, do juſtly expoſe themſelves to the ſuſpicion of being republicans and jacobins. They ſeem to be out of temper that their views have been ſo long diſappointed. If we had not gone to war with France; if the alien bill had not paſſed; if our fleets and forces had not been vigilant, Britain had, before now, ſwarmed with French jacobins. Before this time we had beheld, many of us had experienced, the like tragical events, the like inſtances of rapine and barbarity, of confuſion and carnage, which have been exhibited on the continent. Writers on the ſubject are clearly of this perſuaſion. But the declaimers themſelves need no proof; they have the moſt ſatisfactory information, they have entire conviction in their own breaſts. Here, it is not to be forgotten, that after the French had proceeded ſo far in the reform of their government; after aſſaſſinations and maſſacres were committed, and commotions prevailed throughout the kingdom, one of our Senators, one of theſe called Men of the People, ſaid in the Houſe of Commons, that "our miniſtry ought to take advantage of the diſtracted ſtate of France;" a ſpeech which plainly inſinuated our going to war. The ſpeeches of the ſame gentleman now abound with bitter invective againſt the preſent war, which was not commenced on our part, until our allies were attacked, and we ourſelves daringly threatened; was not commenced until war became unavoidable, unleſs we were tamely to give up every thing valuable to us as Britons, and dear to us as men and Chriſtians.

It

It is cauſe of regret, that the war has proved ſo diſaſtrous, and that many of our diſaſters are to be aſcribed to the baſeneſs of traitors among ourſelves, who give to the enemy all the intelligence and aid in their power. We may be perſuaded, that ſeveral of our ſhips, in the liſt of captures, have been freighted with warlike ſtores and proviſions for the enemy's uſe, and have purpoſely thrown themſelves in the way of French cruiſers. It is hard to ſay what ſucceſs they may have in alluring our ſailors into their ſervice; but we know, that by want, bad bread, and bad treatment, they have brought many of them to their grave. It is treaſon to take part with the enemies of the King and the nation, or to aid them in the manner now mentioned. To pray for ſucceſs to them, or to pray againſt the ſucceſs of our own troops, if it be not a degree of treaſon, does certainly come very near to it. It ſhews that there is abundance of treaſon in the heart, and in the intention. People do hereby ſhow the ſtrongeſt inclination to ſide with the enemy, and that nothing but want of power and opportunity prevents them from doing it. One is ſurpriſed to find an orator pleading publicly before a moſt venerable Court, in behalf of ſuch petitioners; and gloſſing their prayers as mere wiſhes that a junto would not prevail againſt France. Of that junto Britain is a part. In the laſt ſeſſion of Parliament ſome ſpeakers repreſented it as the principal. It is now like to ſtand ſingle in the conteſt; and therefore to pray for ſucceſs to the French, or to pray that Britons may not prevail, is nothing leſs than praying, that the Britiſh throne be pulled down, and the Britiſh conſtitution levelled in the duſt; that Britain may become a ſection of the French republic, *one* and *undivided*, and thus be enſlaved to the moſt arbitrary and execrable tyranny that ever exiſted.

Loud

Loud also are the complaints against *manifold and enormous taxes*, which are said to be *highly oppressive*.

These complainers should consider, that unless mankind were to roam like the beasts of the desert, there must be government, and government must have a decent support. Thus is the necessity of taxes fixed. As a nation improves in arts and manufactures; as it extends its commerce and empire, in that proportion the expence of government increases, and taxes must be multiplied; but the nation having become richer, is abler to pay them. When the rulers and the public servants of a great nation can appear with suitable dignity at home and abroad, that nation becomes respectable in the eyes of foreign powers; respect and safety are secured even to its subjects.

Amidst the extravagant murmurs which have been heard against taxes, what is become of boasted patriotism? By true patriotism we are taught to make great sacrifices to the public good;—to sacrifice ease, power, pleasure, and wealth, in order to maintain the rights, to promote and defend the honour and happiness of our country. Therefore, grumbling must, in this case, betray a selfish and sordid spirit,—a spirit too much enslaved to mammon.—Even when taxes have risen to exorbitance, and may be considered as a grievance, we are directed to submit: "Ye must "needs be subject, not only for wrath, but for conscience "sake,"—not only for fear of punishment from man, but out of obedience to God. "For this cause, ye pay tri-"bute also," *&c.* Rom. xiii. 5, 6. "Indeed," says the same Apostle, "there is altogether a fault among you, "that ye have contests with each other: Why do ye not "rather suffer wrong?" He condemns their having quarrels with each other at all, whether they went to law or not. Much more would he condemn insurrection, violence and depredation. He upbraids them that they did not rather

ther ſuffer wrong. "All men," ſays a writer on this paſſage, "*cannot* receive this ſaying, or *will* not receive it. "Many aim only at the obſervance of this rule, *I will* "*neither do wrong, nor ſuffer wrong.* Theſe may be ho- "neſt heathens, but no Chriſtians." It were well, however, if people would abſtain from doing wrong: They would be leſs expoſed to the ſuffering of wrong. Our religion does herein give us an eſſential leſſon of prudence. For it is certainly much better to pay a few ſhillings more yearly, than to ſacrifice peace, public and private,—than to hazard the life, property and happineſs, of many thouſands. Perſons who pretend to be Chriſtians, ſhould know ſomething of the value of a human ſoul. Some authors have ſaid, that in worth it outweighs worlds. Its happineſs, then, is not to be ſported with, nor to be wantonly endangered for mere trifles. It is no light matter to be the cauſe of murder and bloodſhed. They who do not acknowledge ſacred writ, may learn from hiſtory, and from their own obſervation, how awfully that threatening has been verified, "He that ſheddeth man's blood, by man ſhall his "blood be ſhed." But to be the cauſe of precipitating into eternity, thouſands and ten thouſands of immortal ſouls, whether prepared or unprepared, is a degree of enormity and guilt too great for us to eſtimate. The French have tried to procure themſelves a temporary relief from the bitterneſs of theſe reflexions, by rejecting the principles and fears of religion.

If people would conſider the ravages and deſolations, the miſeries and diſtreſſes, which follow in the train of inſurrection and rebellion, they would pay the taxes and live in quietneſs: They would retrench ſome expences in dreſs and table, or apply an hour or two more, each day, to their lawful occupation; rather than indulge a ſpirit of envy and diſcontent, the ſource of diſloyalty,—the ſource often of

bitter malice and revenge againſt legal government. Of theſe it may be ſaid, more juſtly than in the inſtance in which the expreſſion was lately applied by a popular orator, that *they draw every thing into their vortex*. No principle is ſtrong enough to oppoſe their force, no horrors are ſo ghaſtly as to reſtrain their violence. If private revenge be juſtly condemned as baſe, unmanly and wicked; revenge of a public nature, revenge againſt eſtabliſhed government, muſt be much more criminal: For who can limit its pernicious tendency, or ſay how far its direful effects may reach?——Contingencies often oblige rulers to increaſe the public taxes; ſuch as wars, conflagrations, national loſſes and calamities, *&c.* The inconſiſtence of thoſe who exclaim againſt taxes, and with the ſame breath wiſh ſucceſs to the French, muſt excite indignation; becauſe the longer the French are ſucceſsful, the longer muſt the war be continued and taxes be increaſed. But I truſt, that in Great Britain, the true lovers of their country are moſt numerous, by a very great majority; and what has a virtuous and reſolute majority to fear? They will ſpend the laſt farthing which they can afford, they will ſpend the laſt ſpark of life, and ſell it dear, rather than ſubmit to the French. If French principles, political and religious, prevailed, this world, to any good perſon, would not be worth the living in.——One's indignation muſt likewiſe be raiſed at hearing of a popular orator introducing into his political harangues, either as a pattern or an apology for the ſeditious, the effuſions of Mr Burke's enthuſiaſm relating to America. Many men, as wiſe as Mr Burke, have been in error, and have retracted. The Americans, perhaps, have no great cauſe now to thank Mr Burke, or any who then favoured their cauſe. But America is at preſent out of the queſtion. The French Revolution carries a very different aſpect. Mr Burke has publiſhed to the world his

ſentiments

ſentiments on this ſubject, and it were better to bring *them* into the view of malecontents, than his extravagant rhapſodies on American ſucceſs. Many of the Americans are now ripe for another revolution, and the orator will certainly be on the ſide of the inſurgents. They are contending for *liberty*. Between their ideas, and the ideas of French republicans, there is a ſtrong aſſociation. One would almoſt pronounce them inſpired by the ſame demon. The taxes brought America into my mind. I have heard it mentioned in company, that the Americans paid five times or ten times more taxes now than formerly: And it was anſwered by ſome violently attached to them, "What "then? they have themſelves the power of impoſing theſe "taxes,"—a very diſputable point; but let it be granted, and it is aſſigning the ſame reaſon for their conduct, that is often aſſigned for the conduct of children and fools, Let them have but their *will*, and they ſacrifice their beſt intereſts, and give up with their moſt valuable friends. During the late American war, nothing was heard among a certain claſs, but exclamations againſt the haughty ſpirit of Britain. America ſaid it would humble the pride of Britain. The French Convention now boaſt of doing the ſame; and what was ſaid to Diogenes, is applicable to both. When the Cynic boaſted, that "he trampled on the pride "of Plato;" "Yes," it was anſwered, "but you do it "with a greater pride."—Let me now aſk the admirers of French politics, how they would like the French mode of taxing? They robbed the nobility, the clergy and church; they compelled gentlemen to leave their eſtates, or invented ſome ground of accuſation and took off their heads, and then ſeized on their property. After theſe ſources of ſupply were exhauſted, whatever they wanted was put under requiſition, and a refuſal to comply coſt the recuſants their heads. Thus men, money, horſes and cattle, were levied

in

in a trice, and to any extent the Convention thought proper. In the Auſtrian Netherlands, which they lately invaded, young men were required to make roads and canals. Six thouſand girls were put under requiſition, to attend their ſick ſoldiers. In conſequence of this requiſition, ſome thouſands of children may appear in proper time, and they will no doubt be claimed as the property of the Republic. They will be dedicated to Mars, and taught to celebrate the rites of the French idol Virility. But this is not all; men, horſes and waggons, were put under requiſition, to carry all the valuable property of the invaded country to Paris.—In ſhort, what is the French army, but a multitude of lawleſs armed tax-gatherers, or oppreſſive free-booters? They firſt plunder to clothe and feed, and enrich themſelves; and then they are ordered to lay heavy contributions on the conquered towns and territories, to enable the Convention to proſecute their levelling and bloody plans, or to ſupport their extravagant luxury. For it has been aſſerted on good authority, and many will readily believe it, that Pariſian luxury, formerly without parallel, has now riſen to a moſt *gigantic* height.

It may be alleged, that theſe extraordinary methods are at firſt neceſſary, but a milder ſyſtem will be ſoon adopted. Believe it not. It is againſt experience, againſt the doctrine of habits, againſt the love of power, ſo natural to the human mind; and againſt our knowledge of French men, and French manners. They will continue the ſame arbitrary, inſolent, rapacious depredators, till it ſhall pleaſe Providence to overturn their preſent ſyſtem It is enough to ſhock a ſerious mind to hear of the abſurd and wild conceits, expreſſed by modern patriots and malecontents. If we profeſs a regard for the Britiſh conſtitution, and the memory of thoſe who formed it, and left it with us as a ſacred depoſit: Immediately it is aſked, What right had our predeceſſors

ceſſors to judge for us, or to chuſe a political conſtitution for us?—Such queriſts ought to be reminded, that of theſe impertinent inquiries there is no end, till they arrive at that impious one, What right had the Supreme Being to call them into exiſtence, or to determine the place of their habitation? They forget that they are as clay in the hands of the potter. If thoſe who preceded them had no right to chuſe a form of government for them, as little right have they to chuſe one for their ſucceſſors; ſo that every generation might claim the right of chuſing their own form of government. Thus, in every period of 30 or 40 years, this point muſt be agitated and determined. Any perſon who can reflect, may eaſily foreſee what would be the conſequence, amidſt the various opinions, the various views and attachments of mankind, amidſt interfering intereſts, and oppoſite plans and purſuits, ſuch political quarrels and ſtruggles muſt ariſe, as would haſten the extinction of the human race.

Suppoſe a forward inexperienced youth has ſucceeded to the eſtate of a father, who, after conſulting the beſt judges, and procuring the beſt plans, had been at pains to build a proper, commodious, and ſubſtantial houſe for his heir; inſtead of being pleaſed with the father's ſolicitude and attention, the conceited youth exclaimed, What a fool! to pretend to plan and build a houſe for him. He reſolves to pull it down, and to build another to his own liking. A neighbour of prudence and experience came and expoſtulated with him; told him, that although the houſe did not entirely correſpond to his ideas, it was convenient and comfortable, and might with a few alterations be much improved, perhaps might be made ſuſceptible of elegance and grandeur; if he pulled it down, he might be buried in the ruins, or while he reared a new fabric, the ſcaffolding might give way, and he be cruſhed to pieces. But all the cala-

mities

mities which can happen in this inſtance, afford no adequate repreſentation of the inexpreſſible ills which muſt proceed from any violent attempt to pull down an old, and rear up a new fabric of a political conſtitution. If the old conſtitution be juſtly held in veneration, the dangers exceed calculation, the difficulties are almoſt inſurmountable, unleſs the people who live under it have become quite venal, worthleſs and degenerate.

I do not mean to apply the foregoing remarks to the people of this pariſh, or any part of the neighbourhood; but when I go about through the country, I am frequently told that the French have many friends amongſt us; and I ſometimes hear complaints and grievances repeated. Thus my apprehenſions may, perhaps, be too much awakened. After all, I affirm, that if there be 50 perſons in a ſhire diſaffected to Government, and attached to French politics and French principles, that is too great a number; becauſe pernicious principles often ſpread as quickly as any infection; and in matters relating to our beſt intereſts, here and hereafter, there ſhould be but one mind, and that manifeſted by the united energy of the whole nation. Nothing ſhould appear, but a noble and virtuous emulation, who ſhall be foremoſt in ſerving their country.

If it ſhall pleaſe Providence to reſtore peace to us, if the alien bill be repealed, and a free intercourſe be opened with France, the friends of Britain, and of Britiſh privileges, cannot have too ſtrict an eye on thoſe who have given cauſe to ſuſpect their loyalty. Democratical orators, who wiſh to find the greateſt part of the nation fools, or to make them ſuch, will tell us, there is no danger that French principles prevail in Britain. Orators ſometimes argue and ſpeak againſt conviction. Theſe gentlemen, perhaps, do themſelves know, where Britons of French principles are to be found, and ſhrewdly conjecture that many more would

would avow them if a favourable opportunity offered. French principles are too flattering to many claſſes of people; to the young and the ignorant, the diſloyal and diſſolute, the ambitious and thoſe of deſperate fortunes, to the idle and the indolent, who hate to earn a ſubſiſtence by lawful induſtry, and would wiſh to ſee plunder authoriſed as in France. Such characters are to be found in too many places; perſons who would readily proſcribe our nobility, gentry and clergy, and eagerly ſeize on their property. It may not be improper, therefore, to renew an old advice: "Let no price or promiſe bribe you to take part with the "enemies of your King and country. Whoever wins, you "are loſt. If your Prince proſper, you are proclaimed "rebels, and muſt expect the conſequence. If the enemy "prevail, you will be reckoned traitors, and though your "treaſon be accepted, you will be hated, ſuſpected and "deſpiſed."

I have touched the outlines of ſome of the topics of the day. They have been diſcuſſed with ability in Principal Campbell's Sermon on the American War, in Dr Hardy's Patriot, and Dr Young's Eſſays on Government, *&c.* It is a pity that theſe publications are ſo little conſulted, or peruſed with ſo much prejudice. Thoſe who write on that ſide, are often branded with the epithets, *miniſterial tools*, *court ſycophants*, the ſlaves of deſpots, *&c.* But men ought to liſten to reaſon, to weigh evidence, and regard truth, from what quarter ſoever they come; and not abandon themſelves to paſſion, reſentment and prepoſſeſſion, which hinder us from diſcerning what is right and fit, either reſpecting ourſelves or others. A paſſionate and revengeful temper renders men deaf to advice, or averſe to receive it, weakens reaſon, and robs them of all that is great and noble in their nature; it deſtroys friendſhip, confounds

founds the ideas of juſtice, changes humanity into cruelty, and all order into confuſion. It is in vain, therefore, to aſſert, that the people of Britain are incapable of the barbarities perpetrated in France. The contrary is well known. Political rage, the love of power, and thirſt of lucre, transform men into ſavage monſters. The engaging timidity of the fair ſex is loſt in more than maſculine hardineſs; the uſe of the cudgel is ſubſtituted for the exerciſe of the fan; and their muſical accents converted into hectoring vociferations.

To conclude: After conſidering French principles and politics, as explained by their practice, the beſt interpreter; after contemplating their views of univerſal depredation and ſelf aggrandizement; I muſt conclude, that it were better for every Briton able to bear arms, to ſtep forward in defence of our invaluable privileges, and reſolutely die in the ſtruggle, than ſubmit to the French. It were better for poſterity that Great Britain were turned into a deſart, and they forced to ſeek an aſylum among untutored Indians, than become a ſection of the French Republic. Theſe ſentiments may be thought unbecoming the clerical character. I do not think it. All Chriſtians are expreſsly required to lay down their lives, rather than renounce their religion; and where can we lay them down more properly than in the field, againſt the enemies of truth, who bring in deſtructive hereſies, denying the Lord that bought them? The ſpirit of the goſpel is indeed the ſpirit of peace, but it is at the ſame time the ſpirit of heroiſm.

NUMBER XXI.

UNITED PARISHES

OF

SANDWICK AND STROMNESS,

(SYNOD AND COUNTY OF ORKNEY, PRESBYTERY OF CAIRSTON.)

By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM CLOUSTON.

Short Account of the Orkney Iſlands.

THE Orkney iſlands were originally governed by their own kings, as we are informed by hiſtorians, and by the poet Oſſian, of ſtill greater antiquity. Theſe iſlands having been ſubdued by King Kenneth Macalpin, about the middle of the ninth century, continued from that period annexed to the Scottiſh throne, until the end of the eleventh century, when they were aſſigned by King Donald Bane to the King of Norway, to whom they were ſubject until the middle of the thirteenth century; when they were transferred by Magnus King of Norway to Alexander

King of Scotland. But although theſe iſlands were thus ceded, the Norwegians ſtill aſſerted their right to them, and often poſſeſſed them, until the year 1470, when James III. of Scotland married Margaret, daughter to the King of Denmark, with whom they again paſſed to the Crown of Scotland, in lieu of her dowry; and upon the birth of her ſon (James IV.) they were finally ceded; which was afterwards confirmed, when James VI. of Scotland married Ann daughter of the King of Denmark. Theſe iſlands having been ſo long and repeatedly in the poſſeſſion of the Danes and Norwegians, many of the names of places and perſons are derived from the Daniſh or Scandinavian language.

Name and Situation.—Stromneſs and Sandwick are names to be found in Sweden, Denmark, and Iceland. The firſt of theſe may derive its name from *Strom*, or *Straum*, and *Neſs*; this laſt meaning an extended point of land, and *Strom* the ſtrong tide off that point. The pariſh of Sandwick, as well as the pariſh of the ſame name in the Shetland iſles, of a ſimilar ſituation, may derive its name from *Sand* and *Wick*, as there is a ſandy bay on the weſt ſide of this pariſh, *Wick* ſignifying a bay or inlet of the ſea. The centre of theſe pariſhes lies in latitude 58° 59′; on the weſt end of the iſle of Pomona, or mainland, late the biſhoprick, now the ſtewartry and county of Orkney, in the Synod and County of Orkney, and in the preſbytery of Cairſton; and Stromneſs is the ſeat of the ſaid preſbytery.

Theſe pariſhes are bounded by the pariſh of Birſay on the N.; by the loch of Stenneſs on the E.; by the channel of Hoy Sound on the S.; and by the Atlantic Ocean on the W. Mr Murdoch Mackenzie ſurveyed the ſea coaſts of theſe pariſhes in 1740 or 1741.

Figure

Figure and Extent.—The pariſh of Sandwick is nearly circular, and indented on the eaſt by the loch of Stenneſs. The ſcene which this pariſh preſents to the eye is, that of arable ground, interſperſed with graſs grounds of a lively green, and here and there we meet with barren breaks, ſtony and exhauſted, which have been ſtripped of their ſoil, either for fuel, or to enrich and manure theſe pleaſant cultivated ſpots. The moſſes having been exhauſted, and moſt of the hills ſtripped of their verdure, it may be preſumed this pariſh has been long inhabited.

The pariſh of Stromneſs is of an irregular figure. On the weſt ſide, fronting the Atlantic Ocean, is a chain of hills. It ſlopes towards the ſouth; and all along the channel of Hoy Sound is a tract of fertile fields, agreeably interſperſed with graſs and arable grounds. From this part of the pariſh, there is a view which has a good deal of the ſublime in it; the mountains of Hoy, and ſometimes a caſcade of water from theſe mountains; to the weſtward of which appear the hills of Strathnaver, and thoſe as far as Farouthead and Cape Wrath. Theſe, with the vaſt Atlantic Ocean, form a ſcene pictureſque and ſublime, which is heightened when the ſouth-weſt wind blows ſtrong, which leads directly from the Atlantic Ocean. It is this wind which blows with the greateſt violence here, and makes the greateſt ſea. The poet Virgil's deſcription of this wind might well apply to this place,

——— Creberque procellis,
Africus, et vaſtos volvit, ad littora fluctus *.

The fertile pleaſant fields of this part of the pariſh, and the ſublime proſpect, induced George Graham, the laſt Biſhop of Orkney, to build a houſe here, where he reſided ſome

* Virg. Æn. lib. 1. line 85.

ſome part of the year. This houſe is yet ſtanding. The epiſcopal arms, and the date of the year in which it was built (1633), are cut in free ſtone above the door.

Theſe pariſhes were never ſurveyed with a view to aſcertain the preciſe number of acres which they contain. Mr Murdoch Mackenzie principally directed his attention to the ſea coaſts, which he has delineated with great exactneſs. It may be preſumed, however, that his map is as near the truth, with regard to the real extent of theſe pariſhes, as any idea we can form. By his map it appears, that theſe pariſhes are 9 Engliſh miles long, and from $2\frac{1}{4}$ to $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles broad. If we fix $3\frac{3}{4}$ miles as the mean breadth, which cannot be far from the truth, then theſe pariſhes contain $31\frac{1}{4}$ ſquare miles, which, at 640 acres to the ſquare mile, will be in whole 20,160 Engliſh acres.

Sea Coaſts.—The whole weſt coaſt of theſe pariſhes, excepting the Sandy Bay in the pariſh of Sandwick, are bold and elevated, riſing perpendicularly from 100 to 400 or 500 feet in height; which, together with the mountains of Hoy, make it eaſy to the mariner to diſtinguiſh this coaſt.

The mountains of Hoy are ſeen from Cape Wrath, which lies diſtant from Hoy 17 leagues. Along the weſt coaſt of theſe pariſhes, at one league's diſtance from the ſhore, there is 40 or 50 fathoms depth of water. There are no ſhoals in the channel of Hoy Sound, on the ſide next theſe pariſhes, but two; which may be avoided by keeping two cable lengths from the ſhore; one of theſe ſhoals is viſible at two hours ebb. As the coaſt can be ſeen at a great diſtance, and there are no ſhoals but theſe two, which are not dangerous, there are conſequently few veſſels wrecked on the ſea coaſts of theſe pariſhes. The velocity of the ſpring tides in Hoy Sound is 7 miles in the hour; that of neap tides 3 miles. It is high or ſlack water in Hoy Sound at

10 o'clock, on the days of new and full moon, and in the harbour of Stromneſs at 9 o'clock. The flood ſets from the N. W. An hour before flood is perceived in the channel of Hoy Sound, a ſtream ſets from the north, along the weſt coaſts of theſe pariſhes, keeping this ſide of the Sound, and continues in this direction; at half ebb another ſtream ſets from the ſouth, along the ſouth ſide of the Sound, and continues till high water. Theſe ſtreams, when known and attended to, help to facilitate the entrance of ſhipping into the harbour of Stromneſs. This harbour lies at the ſouth or ſouth-eaſt extremity of the pariſh. The entry to it is from the ſouth, and is about a quarter of a mile broad. There is a ſand bank at the entry, on the weſt ſide, which is not dangerous. Two ſmall iſlands or holms lie on the eaſt ſide of the harbour. It is well ſheltered from the weſt and north winds, by a hill that riſes above the village of Stromneſs, and ſtretches along the harbour on that ſide. There can be no ſea in this harbour with the north-eaſt winds, as it is land-locked on that ſide, and the violence of the ſea, with ſoutherly winds, is broken by Hoy and other iſlands, which fence it from the ſeas that lead from the German Ocean into the Pentland Frith. It affords ſafe anchorage, although the ground has become rather oozy, from being much ploughed. The ſtreams which run into it, carrying mud along with them, have made it more ſhallow than formerly it was. There is little or no tide in it. It is not a mile long, and not half a mile in breadth. Veſſels of 1000 tons burden may anchor in it. A ſhip of war of 40 guns has anchored here, and had ſufficient depth of water. Although it is ſmall, this is one of the ſafeſt harbours to be found along the north coaſt of Britain, being ſheltered by high lands on the one ſide, and on the other ſide by iſlands:

—inſula

——— inſula portum *
Efficit, objectu laterum, quibus omnis ab alto
Frangitur, inque ſinus ſcindit ſeſe unda reductos.

Very large veſſels uſually anchor in Cairſton road, without the ſmall iſland or holm, that bounds the harbour on the eaſt ſide, where there is alſo very good anchorage, greater depth of water, and more ſpace; but there is tide here, greater ſea, and it lies more open and expoſed. The ebb tide, with a weſterly wind, makes a very rough ſea near the coaſt, eſpecially at the top of ſpring tides, and is called *the roſt*. The weſt coaſt of theſe pariſhes ſtretch nearly in a ſtraight line from north to ſouth. The extent of the ſea coaſt of theſe pariſhes is about 18 miles.

Soil.—The ſoil of theſe pariſhes is various. In ſome places a black earth, mixed with ſand, prevails; in other places a ſtiff clay; black earth alone is found in ſome places; in others, clay mixed with ſand. In the hills of Stromneſs pariſh there is a great mixture of ſand. The hill that riſes above the village of that name, is covered with a great number of ſtones and rocks of a granite kind, which preſents a very rough and barren appearance; but when theſe ſtones and rocks are removed, the ſoil, although ſhallow, is pretty fertile. On the weſt ſide of the pariſh of Sandwick, near the Sandy Bay, there is a good deal of ſandy ſoil, and an extenſive rabbit-warren, which lies north-eaſt from the Bay. This ſandy ſoil has probably been blown from the Sandy Bay, as the ſouth-weſt winds are the moſt violent, and it lies in the direction of theſe winds. The right to the rabbits of this warren is claimed by one heritor, and determined in the courts of law to belong to him alone, although there are ſeveral heritors who have arable and graſs grounds here, interſperſed with thoſe of the

* Virg. Æn. lib. 1. line 159.

the heritor having the excluſive right to the rabbits. There is alſo what may be called perpetual ſoil in theſe pariſhes, ſince it has been cultivated, and has produced crops of bear, without intermiſſion, for 50 years, neither fallow nor green crops intervening. If, with this management, it produces crops ſufficient to reward the farmer's toil, what might be expected from it, if permitted to reſt? but neither example or perſuaſion will convince the farmer of this, nor even the ſweet Mantuan bard's obſervation,

Nec ulla interea eſt inaratæ gratia terræ *.

Climate.—The air is often raw and damp. In the ſouthern extremity of the pariſh of Stromneſs, along the channel of Hoy Sound, it is, perhaps, not ſo raw as in other parts of this county; the mountains of Hoy attract the clouds, ſo that it often rains on that ſide of the channel, when the inhabitants on this ſide enjoy clear weather. The vicinity of theſe hills, by attracting the clouds and vapours, probably produces a quicker circulation, as well as a purer ſtate of the air, on this ſide of the channel, which is conducive both to health and vegetation.

Diſeaſes.—Coughs, colds, and ſore throats, ſometimes prevail in winter and ſpring, eſpecially in rainy ſeaſons, when the air is not purified by froſt, and when long tracts of eaſterly winds prevail in ſpring. Rheumatiſms are frequent, and conſumptions ſometimes make their appearance. Scorbutic and cutaneous eruptions are not unfrequent among people who live in damp houſes, and have little exerciſe. The gout is unknown. The people, on the whole, are pretty healthy, although there are not many inſtances of longevity. Many arrive at the age of 60 or 70 years;

* Virg. Georg. lib. 1. line 83.

years; a few are to be found of the age of 80 years; but very few arrive at 90 years. A farmer in the pariſh of Stromneſs died laſt ſpring in the 94th year of his age, who was married to one woman 69 years, who bore to him 8 ſons. She is 2 years younger than her huſband, and is ſtill alive. This man, till within two years of his death, went as uſual about his affairs, cut and brought home his peats, and ſhot with his gun. He was regular and temperate in his life, and retained his faculties to the laſt. The oldeſt man in the pariſh of Sandwick is 88 years old. There are in the pariſh of Stromneſs two men of 86 years, one woman of 90 years, and one of 92 years. There are ſeveral paſt 80; but it is not unfrequent, that when they paſs that period, their memory decays, and their faculties are impaired.

Hills, Lakes, Moſſes.—A great part of the weſt coaſt of theſe pariſhes conſiſts of hills, occupying an extent of nearly 5 miles in length, and 1 or 2 miles in breadth. Some of theſe hills take their name from the next inhabited town of land; others are diſtinguiſhed by particular names, many of which terminate in fiold, which means hill. The names are Cringliefiold, Baillifiold, Keirfiold. This laſt is a ſmall hill, in the pariſh of Sandwick, very beautiful and pleaſant, riſing with a gentle aſcent; it is about a mile and a half in circumference, is always covered with a green verdure, and affords good paſture to ſheep. It is peculiar, however, to the ſheep that feed upon this hill, that their teeth ſoon become yellow. There are two or three ſmall lochs, but no moſſes in the pariſh of Sandwick; there are two ſmall moſſes in the pariſh of Stromneſs, but no lochs.

Cultivated and uncultivated Grounds.—As there has never been any exact ſurvey or meaſurement of theſe pa-

riſhes, if it is deſired to know the number of cultivated acres, it muſt be ſupplied from conjecture, which probably in this caſe is not far from the truth. A plough turns from 4 to 14 Orkney planks *. The medium may be about 8 Orkney planks arable ground to each plough. The infield and outfield graſs, excluſive of hill-paſture, may be about as much, or rather more. From the beſt conjecture that can be formed on this ſubject, the diviſion of theſe pariſhes in cultivated and uncultivated grounds is as follows:

	Acres.
Arable ground, 227 ploughs, at 9½ acres to each plough, - - -	2116
Arable ſpots cultivated about the village of Stromneſs, - - -	30
Graſs-grounds, infield, outfield, and meadow,	2116
Graſs-ground of Keirfiold hill, in pariſh of Sandwick,	400
Moſſes in the pariſh of Stromneſs, -	500
570 inhabited houſes, with gardens, occupying	200
Two ſmall lochs in the pariſh of Sandwick,	640
Hills and uncultivated grounds, -	14,158
Total, -	20,160

Thus it appears, that the arable ground is not one-ninth part of the whole, and that the graſs-grounds are only one-eighth part of the whole extent; that two-thirds of the whole conſiſts of uncultivated hills and brakes, of no advantage but to give a little fuel, and paſture about 2000 ſheep.

Agriculture, Implements of Huſbandry.—The plough uſed here is the ſingle ſtilted, the ſame as is uſed in moſt parts

* A plank is a term uſed in meaſuring grounds in Orkney. The plank is 40 fathoms ſquare, and conſequently contains 1600 ſquare fathoms.

parts of this county. In holding this plough, the ploughman bends to the ſoil, and may well be denominated *curvus arator*, as Virgil does the Roman ploughman. The two ſtilted plough is uſed by a few, which anſwers beſt for tilling oat-land, and the other for tilling bear-land. They till with three horſes abreaſt; ſome till with two horſes; but few till with four horſes. Oxen are little uſed in tillage, but they are uſed for harrowing, and carting peats. Harrows with wooden teeth are for the moſt part uſed; a few uſe iron-teethed harrows. *Crebris inſectabere raſtris*, is an injunction which the farmers here do not much practice, as they think the ſoil cannot bear much harrowing, and that it produces a ſhort light crop. They till rather ſhallow, and rely more on the quantity of manure than on any thing elſe, for raiſing a good crop. Fallowing is rarely or not at all uſed by the ſmall farmers. The firſt reſiding heritor, William Wall, Eſq; fallows a proportionable quantity of his farm yearly, and conſequently raiſes grain of a ſuperior quality; he is alſo making incloſures. On the upland farms, diſtant from the manure of ſea-weed, a ſpot of half an acre on each farm is laid lea, which they plough before or after harveſt, and ſow it with bear the following year; but as the weeds have generally ſhed their ſeeds before this ploughing, it can be of little advantage. This, however, is all the reſt the land has.

Rotation of Crops.—If there was a proper rotation of crops, the land might receive ſome reſt by this means;

"Sic quoque mutatis requieſcunt fœtibus arva *."

But the conſtant rotation of crops, is that of oats and bear in alternate ſucceſſion. Some ſpots have yielded crops of bear

* Virg. Georg. lib. i. lin. 82.

bear yearly, without a change of crop, for 50 years. No peaſe or turnip are raiſed, but by the firſt reſiding heritor already mentioned. A ſmall ſpot on each farm is planted with potatoes, of which none were planted 50 years ago; but they now conſtitute a principal part of food.

Carts.—There were no carts here 50 years ago. They are now getting into uſe. They are ſometimes drawn by a ſingle horſe, but more frequently by oxen. The number of carts is,

Pariſh of Sandwick,	-	11
Pariſh of Stromneſs,	- -	12
Total,		23

Seed-time and Harveſt.—Oats are ſown in March, and the firſt of April. Bear is uſually ſown from the 1ſt to the 20th day of May. The ſummer is employed in preparing fuel, and carrying home peats. The crop is reaped from the 20th Auguſt, and if the ſeaſon is favourable, harveſt is done by the laſt of September or the firſt of October. *Hiems ignava colono* is verified here, for there is no labour carried on during winter, except thraſhing and preparing the crop. Then it is that the farmer enjoys the fruit of his labour, and to this ſeaſon they look forward for the reward of their toil. They make malt, and as the exciſe is compounded, the greater part of them brew ale, and drink it with one another alternately. There is no doubt but a great deal of the crop is conſumed in this way; but if uſed with moderation, it is what they are entitled to from the labours of the year, and the ſeaſon perhaps requires it. Mirth and hilarity appear in a circle of neighbours met thus to enjoy themſelves during the rigour of the ſeaſon, and here the poet's deſcription is realiſed:

" Frigoribus

" Frigoribus parto agricolæ plerumque fruuntur,
" Mutuaque inter ſe liti convivia curant;
" Invitat genialis hiems, curasque reſolvit *."

Manure.—In the upland farms, diſtant from the ſea, the only manure they have is the dung of their horſes and cattle, with feal and divot cut from the hill and brakes. They build a ſpot of 10 or 12 feet in diameter with feals, which they fill with dung, aſhes, and cut feals. Theſe compoſt dunghills are carried on the land in ſpring, ſpread, and tilled down.

Sea-weed.—In parts near the ſea, they principally depend on ſea weed or ware, which, with ſome little dung and houſe manure, raiſes excellent crops. In ſome places of the pariſh of Sandwick that lie in the vicinity of the ſea-ſhore, they put, in winter, ſea-ware on their grounds; in ſpring they put on the dung from the compoſt dunghills; and if plenty of ſea-ware is drove aſhore, they put on ſea-ware again, before they till and ſow with bear. The ground, thus thrice manured, produces a luxuriant appearance of crop, and a good one if the ſeaſon is dry; but if the ſeaſon is wet and rainy, it falls down before it is filled, and then ſeldom ripens well.

Marl.—In a few places marl is found. It is taken up in ſummer, and laid to dry. Then it is laid on lea-grounds and ſpread, and in harveſt it is tilled down.

Lime.—There is appearance of limeſtone in both theſe pariſhes. There is limeſtone in the pariſh of Sandwick, which lies in the direction of from S. S. W. to N. N. E.; and

* Virg. Georg. lib. i. lin. 300.

and excellent lime is made there by the firſt reſiding heritor William Wall, Eſq; but none is uſed as a manure. The petrified ſand in theſe pariſhes alſo burns to lime.

Crops.—The crops are very unequal in produce. In the months of July and Auguſt the appearance is very promiſing, but the ſtorms of wind in the month of September often injure the crop. Theſe gales are uſually from the W. and S. W. and ſweeping over the Atlantic Ocean, are collected, as it were in a narrow ſtream, by the mountains of Hoy, and act with great violence. The two moſt violent ſtorms at the harveſt ſeaſon, for 30 years paſt, were in September 1765, and on the 14th Auguſt 1778. The ſea-ſpray has been known to reach 12 miles diſtant from the craggy weſtern coaſt of theſe pariſhes, which makes the fodder ſalt, and often hurtful to cattle. The fear of theſe ſtorms may be ſaid to hurt the crop every year, as it induces the farmers to cut down their crop before it is fully ripe. As their farms are ſmall, and their circumſtances ſtraitened, theſe conſiderations, joined to the recollection of what injury their crops have formerly ſuſtained, make them eager to begin harveſt; and if it be obſerved to them, that they loſe by this conduct, they anſwer, that a green ſheaf is better than a ſhaken ſheaf. It may be thought that this might be remedied by ſowing more early, and conſequently bringing on the harveſt before the autumnal and equinoctial gales come on; but the ſpring ſeaſon ſeldom admits of this. In ſome places where the grounds are dry, they do ſow more early when the ſeaſon admits of it; but neither does this always ſucceed, becauſe there often happens ſuch cold weather in May, as nips the crop, makes it ſhort and ſtinted, thin, and ſmall in the ear. The uncertainty of the ſeaſons hurts the crop, both as to quantity and quality. As the farms are ſmall, the preſent neceſſity

of

of the farmer cannot permit him to fallow any conſiderable part of his grounds; it conſequently follows that the grounds are very dirty and full of weeds, by which alſo the crop is hurt.

It may conſequently appear, that this climate is better adapted to raiſing crops of graſs, but that has not been attempted, except in very ſmall ſpots. Straitened circumſtances, ſhort leaſes, and the payment of the rent in malt, are bars to this. To carry this plan into execution, it would be neceſſary that the proprietors, or the tenants, ſhould have the command of money to defray the expence of incloſing, which has not been the caſe with the reſiding proprietors, or their tenants, for ſome time paſt. It would alſo, perhaps, require a better market for cattle than is to be found at the village of Stromneſs.

From the great uncertainty of the ſeaſons, and conſequent variableneſs of the crop, no preciſe or fixed eſtimate can be made of the whole produce. The ground that each farm contains is not aſcertained, and few or none keep an exact account of the produce of their farms, nor can they well do it, as they are in the practice of keeping up their ſtock of horſes by buying young ones of a year old, on whom they beſtow a conſiderable part of their crop, before they are reared fit for tilling. If an eſtimate was made of the whole produce, it would be mere conjecture. If we were to hazard ſuch conjecture, the principles upon which we would proceed would be theſe. We would firſt aſcertain the number of acres cultivated by each plough, and then fix on what we know an acre of middling ſoil has, or may produce, in ſeaſons not unfavourable. Upon theſe principles it will ſtand thus:

		Acres.
227 ploughs, at 9¾ Engliſh acres to each plough, is		2116
Deduct ¼ acre from each plough, laid lea, is	56	
Deduct ¼ acre from each plough, in potatoes,	56	
	—	112
Remains cultivated to bear and oats,		2004

	Bolls.
1002 acres in bear, at 5 bolls *per* acre, is -	5010
1002 acres in oats, at 9 bolls *per* acre, is - -	9018

Deducting a boll bear *per* acre, and three bolls oats *per* acre for ſeed, there remains,

Of bear,	4008
Of oats,	6012

The value of the crop, after deducting the ſeed, may be as follows:

4008 bolls bear, at 10 s. *per* boll, is -	L. 2004	0	0
6012 bolls oats, uſually producing one-third part meal, after deducting multure, is 2004 bolls meal, at 10 s. *per* boll, is -	1002	0	0
56 acres potatoes, producing 60 barrels *per* acre, is 3360 barrels, at 1 s. 6 d. *per* barrel, is - - -	252	0	0
Total value of the crop, after deducting ſeed and multure, -	L. 3258	0	0

The above ſtatement is probably not far from the truth in good ſeaſons. When the ſeaſons are bad, the crop will not be half of this. No eſtimate can be made of the hay produced, as it is uſually given to horſes and cattle, and ſeldom

ſeldom any part of it is ſold. Before ſtating the valued or real rent, it is neceſſary to obſerve, that the rent was, and is ſtill paid by pundlar and biſmar weight; which mode of payment has been continued ever ſince the Danes had poſſeſſion of the Orkney Iſlands.

The meel is about $11\frac{1}{4}$ or $11\frac{1}{2}$ ſtone, Dutch weight.
The ſetting is one-fixth part of the meel, or 32 lb.
The merk is one twenty-fourth of the ſetting, or $1\frac{1}{3}$ lb.
The liſpund is rather more than the ſetting *.

Valued Rent.—At the time of the valuation in 1653

The biſhoprick rents were valued at	L. 2593	19	$6\frac{1}{7}$
The rent of the other proprietors, at	2414	1	$0\frac{11}{13}$
Total valuation of both pariſhes,	L. 5008	0	$7\frac{3}{13}$

The ſundry articles of rent amounting to this ſum, were as ſtated in the note below †.

Real

* For a further account of theſe weights, ſee Statiſtical Account of Croſs and Burneſs, vol. 7.

† $21\frac{1}{2}$ barrels 9 liſpunds 2 merks butter, at L. 20 *per* barrel, - -	L. 432	12	0
Oat-meal, 142 meels 1 ſetting 4 merks, at L. 4 *per* meel, - -	568	16	5
Malt, 1001 meels 1 ſetting, at L. 3 : 6 : 8 *per* meel, - -	3338	5	4
Fleſh, 4 laſts 14 meels 2 ſettings, at L. 1 *per* meel, - - -	110	13	4
Wool, 5 liſpunds, at L. 6 *per* liſpund, -	30	0	0
Oil, 2 barrels $3\frac{1}{2}$ liſpunds, at L. 20 *per* barrel,	48	8	$0\frac{3}{13}$
Money, - -	479	5	6
	L. 5008	0	$7\frac{3}{13}$

Real Rent.—The real rent of theſe pariſhes, as proven by oath of the heritors to the Court of Seſſion in 1753, when the ſtipend of theſe pariſhes was modified, was,

	Butter.			*Meal.*			*Malt.*			Scots.		
	Barrels.	liſp.	mrks.	Meels	ſett.	mrks.	Meels	ſett.	mrks.	L.	s.	d.
Sandwick,	17 $\frac{1}{6}$	39	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	41	0	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	604	5	10 $\frac{4}{12}$	634	14	4
Stromneſs,	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	29	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	27	5	8	413	5	17 $\frac{6}{12}$	846	17	9
Total,	20 $\frac{8}{12}$	68	22	68	5	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	1017	10	27 $\frac{10}{12}$	1481	12	1

The above rent, converted by their Lordſhips at L. 4 Scots *per* meel malt, L. 5 *per* meel oat-meal, L. 20 *per* barrel butter, amounted to L. 6508 : 17 : 6 Scots, or L. 542 : 8 : 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ Sterling.

As the rent continues to be paid, for the moſt part, in the ſame articles, it has not increaſed, or has increaſed but very inconſiderably in denomination. The rents of the biſhoprick or Crown-lands, which, together with the feu-duties payable to the Crown, amount to one-half of the whole rents, have rarely been augmented. But although there is no riſe in the rent as to the articles paid in kind, yet theſe articles have increaſed in value. The real rent of theſe pariſhes, including kelp, mills and quarries, may be eſtimated at the preſent period (1794) as follows:

20 $\frac{8}{12}$ barrels butter, at L. 3 *per* barrel,	L.	62	0 0
68 liſpunds 22 merks butter, at 8 s. *per* liſpund, - - -		27	11 4
Oat-meal, 68 meels 5 ſettings 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ merks, at 15 s. *per* meel, is -		51	13 6
Carried forward,	L.	141	4 10

Brought forward,	L. 141	4	10
Malt, 1018 meels 5 ſettings $3\frac{9}{11}$ merks, at 10 s. *per* meel, is - -	509	8	7
Money, L. 1481 : 12 : 1 Scots, is of Sterling money - -	123	9	$4\frac{1}{11}$
Augmented rent on a few farms, -	20	0	0
Rent of about 30 acres near the village of Stromneſs, - -	25	0	0
Total rent paid from the ſoil,	L. 819	2	$9\frac{1}{2}$
Rent of a ſlate quarry and a mill-ſtone quarry, - -	20	0	0
Rent of 8 water-mills, deducting expence of ſupporting them, - -	40	0	0
Kelp, profits on 50 tons, at L. 3 *per* ton, deducting expence of making,	150	0	0
Total revenue to the proprietors,	L. 1029	2	$9\frac{1}{2}$

Beſide the above rent, a few poultry and geeſe are paid, which may amount to L. 10 or L. 15 value. From the foregoing ſtatement of the number of acres cultivated, the produce thereof, and the rent payable therefrom, the following obſervations may be made: *1ſt*, That as the whole rent is L. 819 : 2 : $9\frac{1}{2}$ paid from the ſoil, this is, excluſive of the graſs grounds, 7 s. $8\frac{9}{10}$ d. for each Engliſh acre of arable ground. If one-third part of the rent be laid on the graſs grounds, then it will be 5 s. $1\frac{6}{10}$ d. *per* acre of the arable grounds, and 2 s. $7\frac{3}{10}$ d. *per* acre of the graſs grounds. *2dly*, That as the value of the whole produce from the arable grounds, in good ſeaſons, excluſive of the profits from the graſs grounds, amounts to L. 3258, and the rent payable from the ſoil is L. 819 : 2 : $9\frac{1}{2}$, that

is, nearly one-fourth part of the whole produce, after deducting ſeed and multure; that therefore the lands are moderately rented. But this will not appear to be the caſe, when we conſider, 1ſt, The want of good and regular markets for the produce; 2dly, The increaſed expence of farming, and eſpecially of ſervants wages; 3dly, The difficulty of obtaining ſervants, even at the advanced wages.

Services.—The tenants of the reſiding heritors uſually aſſiſt for 2 days in carrying home on their horſes the proprietors peats, and this is almoſt the only ſervice required of them. All ſervices are the remains of the old feudal ſyſtem, and it is argued that they ought to be aboliſhed, as they impede improvements. But ſuch ſmall ſervices as theſe are no bar to improvements; for the tenants of the non-reſiding heritors, who pay no ſervices, do not improve their lands more than thoſe tenants do who perform theſe ſervices.

State of Property.—In the times of Epiſcopacy, the Biſhop held the property of about one half of the pariſh of Sandwick, and a ſmall property in the pariſh of Stromneſs; ſo that, with the feu-duties payable to him from the other proprietors, he received nearly one half of the rent of both pariſhes. Theſe lands being now veſted in the Crown, are ſet in tack by the Exchequer to the Right Honourable Lord Dundas of Aſke, for a yearly tack-duty. George Graham, Biſhop of Orkney, poſſeſſed, as private property, nearly one third part of theſe pariſhes, which property is now transferred to William Watt, Eſq; Theſe two great proprietors, with two more heritors, of whom James Riddoch, Eſq; Collector of his Majeſty's Cuſtoms, is one, receive among them about three-fourths of the rents; and the

the remaining fourth part is the property of nearly 100 ſmall heritors.

As the biſhoprick lands are annexed to the Crown, and cannot be transferred, it is only the remaining part, the property of private individuals, that can come into the market for ſale. Within theſe laſt 20 years, above one half of this remaining ſaleable property has been ſold, and ſome of it at from 30 to 50 years purchaſe. There is no reaſon to regret that property changes its maſters, for theſe new proprietors are the beſt improvers of the ſoil, by incloſing, adopting new modes of agriculture, building comfortable houſes, and erecting mills.

About 70 years ago lands were ſold at 20 years purchaſe, and below it; but ſince the village of Stromneſs has increaſed in number of inhabitants, in wealth and trade, lands have riſen in value; as the ſhopkeepers, who have made any money, chuſe to veſt it in lands or houſes, the inland trade being limited, and they do not incline to eſtabliſh manufactures, or engage in foreign trade. The demand alſo by ſhipping of ſome of the articles raiſed, and the increaſed prices given, have tended to raiſe the value of property, although theſe prices are ſtill inadequate to what the farmer might expect, conſidering the great increaſe of expence in rearing theſe commodities.

Heritors.—At the time of the laſt valuation or extent in 1653, there were 145 heritors, excluſive of the biſhoprick lands then veſted in the Crown. At that time there was but one proprietor of the name of Halcro, and four of the name of Sinclair, of very inconſiderable property, although theſe were the greateſt names in this county formerly; one of the Sinclair's having born the title of Prince of Orkney, and Duke of Oldenburgh, and was allied by marriage to the royal family of Denmark.—In 1753, when a

modified

modified ſtipend was obtained, the number of heritors was 140. At the preſent time (1794) there are 95 heritors. The great proprietors are Lord Dundas, holding in leaſe the Crown-lands; William Watt, James Riddoch, William Graham, and William Honyman, Eſqrs. Theſe hold about three-fourths of the property.

In the village of Stromneſs there are 222 inhabited houſes, the property of 59 proprietors. Many of theſe houſes are occupied by the proprietors, and were never let for rent; but theſe houſes either are, or might be rented as follows:

No. of houſes.	No. of families.	Rent of each houſe.	Total Rent.
6	10	L. 10 0 0	L. 60 0 0
2	5	9 0 0	18 0 0
3	5	8 0 0	24 0 0
1	2	7 10 0	7 10 0
12	16	6 0 0	72 0 0
24	25	5 0 0	120 0 0
13	20	4 0 0	52 0 0
24	60	3 0 0	72 0 0
7	17	2 10 0	17 10 0
21	42	2 0 0	44 0 0
13	26	1 10 0	19 10 0
8	13	1 5 0	10 0 0
13	20	1 0 0	13 0 0
12	12	0 15 0	9 0 0
22	28	0 10 0	11 0 0
10	10	0 7 6	3 15 0
31	31	0 5 0	7 15 0
Total 222	342		L. 561 0 0
A warehouſe and a wharf, if rented, might give	-	-	15 0 0
		Total rent, -	L. 576 0 0

From the high price of materials and workmanſhip, building is as dear here as in many other parts of the kingdom. The beſt houſes, when rented, do not give above 3 *per cent.* of the coſt in building; ſmall houſes give 5 or 6 *per cent.* It may be thought that traders of ſmall capitals might employ their money to more advantage than in building houſes which give ſuch poor returns; nevertheleſs, thoſe who can afford it, rather chuſe to build, and occupy a houſe of their own, than pay the moderate rent of ſuch a houſe. Small quays are raiſed to defend the houſes next the ſea, and ſome houſes are erected on foundations built in the ſea.

Farm Stocking.—The number of horſes in the following liſt will appear great, when compared to the number of acres cultivated, and the quantity of grain raiſed. It is the pride of the farmers to keep as many, and as good horſes as they can afford, and therefore they give them a conſiderable part of the oat-crop. It is uſual at a marriage, when returning from church, to try who can ride foremoſt to the wedding houſe, and they are as keen in the race, and perhaps as much elated with the victory, as thoſe of higher rank are at Newmarket.

The following is an exact liſt taken in July 1794, except that the preciſe number of ſheep and ſwine cannot be aſcertained:

	Sandwick pariſh.	Stromneſs pariſh.	Village of Stromneſs.	Total.
Horſes, -	518	340	—	858
Horned cattle,	1060	665	70	1795
Sheep, (ſuppoſed),	1000	1000	100	2100
Swine, (ſuppoſed),	250	250	—	500
Ploughs, -	123	104	—	227
Carts, -	11	12	—	23
Boats, -	10	9	76	95

Horſes

Horſes ſell at from L. 3 to L. 9, according to their age and ſize; but the value of the whole may be about L. 4 each. If it is deſired to know the value of the ſtocking, it may be ſtated as follows:

858 horſes, at L. 4 each, is -	L. 3432	0	0
1795 horned cattle, at L. 1, 5 s. each, is	2243	15	0
2100 ſheep, young and old, at 3 s. each,	315	0	0
500 ſwine, at 4 s. each, -	100	0	0
Total value of live ſtock, -	L. 6090	15	0

Price of Labour.—A ploughman receives from L. 2, 10 s. to L. 3, 10 s. yearly, with board; a man ſervant, for the harveſt, from 12 s. to 20 s. with board; a female ſervant, for the harveſt, from 8 s. to 12 s. with board; a female ſervant, from 12 s. to L. 1 yearly, with board; a maſon, from 1 s. 3 d. to 2 s. *per* day, without board; a ſlater receives from 17 s. to L. 1, 7 s. *per* rood, according to the ſize of ſlates; a houſe-carpenter, from 1 s. to 1 s. 8 d. *per* day, without board; a ſhip-carpenter, from 1 s. 3 d. to 2 s. *per* day, without board; a tailor is paid by the piece; day-labourers receive 10 d. or 1 s. in ſummer, and 8 d. in winter, *per* day, without board.

Price of Grain and Proviſions.—The price of grain varies greatly. When the crop is good, the price falls very low, as it is but ſeldom any is exported; and, when it is exported, the lower ranks murmur. When the crop fails, the price is high, occaſioned by the additional expence of freight and inſurance upon what is imported. Oat-meal varies from 1 s. 3 d. to 2 s. 6 d. *per* ſtone; malt from 11 s. to 17 s. *per* meel, of 11½ ſtone Dutch; beef ſells at 1½ d. to 2 d. *per* lb. Engliſh weight; butter ſells at from 4 d. to 6 d. *per* lb. Engliſh weight; a gooſe ſells at 1 s. or 1 s. 3 d.; poultry

poultry ſell at from 4 d. to 6 d. each; eggs ſell at $1\frac{1}{2}$d. or 2 d. *per* dozen; pork ſells at 2 d. *per* lb. Mutton is uſually ſold by the quarter, or whole carcaſe.

Population.—In the proceſs for augmentation of ſtipend, (1754), the miniſter of theſe pariſhes repreſented to the Lords Commiſſioners for the valuation of teinds, that theſe pariſhes contained 2400 examinable perſons, and in whole 3000 people; that of theſe there was in the village of Stromneſs 1000. There are at preſent (1794) in the village of Stromneſs 1344 ſouls, and yet the whole population is only about the ſame as that ſtated in 1754; by which it appears, that the population of the two country pariſhes has decreaſed, in the ſame proportion as that of the village has increaſed. By an exact liſt, taken in June 1794, the population is as follows:

	No. of houſes.	No. of families	Males.	Females.	Tot. males & females
Sandwick pariſh,	165	165	416	457	873
Stromneſs pariſh,	184	184	346	449	795
Vill. of Stromneſs,	222	342	493	851	1344
Total, -	571	691	1255	1757	3012

Perſons to a family:

In the pariſh of Sandwick, nearly $5\frac{1}{7}$.

In the pariſh of Stromneſs, nearly $4\frac{1}{7}$.

In the village of Stromneſs, nearly 4; or $3\frac{1}{11}$ to a family, and $6\frac{1}{13}$ to a houſe.

Proportion of males to females:

Pariſh of Sandwick, nearly as 10 males to 11 females.

Pariſh of Stromneſs, nearly as 3 males to 4 females.

Village of Stromneſs, nearly as $12\frac{1}{7}$ males to 21 females.

The

The great diſproportion of males to females in the village of Stromneſs, is occaſioned by the young men going abroad to various parts of the world; to the Greenland fiſhery, the coal-trade, Hudſon's Bay, and many are to be found in his Majeſty's navy.

Baptiſms and Marriages.—To evade the fees to ſeſſion-clerk and officer, and alſo the late tax upon regiſtration, or through mere inattention, many parents neglect to have their childrens names inſerted in the pariſh regiſter of births. The number of burials cannot be aſcertained, as there are no dues to the ſeſſion-clerk therefrom, and conſequently no regular account has been kept. The baptiſms and marriages recorded for 3 years are as follow:

	Baptiſms.		*Marriages.*
	Females.	Males.	
1791. Sandwick pariſh,	4	5	6
Ditto. Stromneſs pariſh & village,	17	30	15
1792. Sandwick pariſh,	16	6	—
Ditto Stromneſs pariſh & village,	22	16	14
1793. Sandwick pariſh.	10	8	2
Ditto. Stromneſs pariſh & village,	23	24	7
Total in both pariſhes for 3 years,	92	99	44
	99		
Total baptiſms recorded,	191		

The average number of baptiſms yearly recorded is $63\frac{2}{3}$. The average number of marriages yearly is $14\frac{2}{3}$. The proportion of baptiſms recorded is, to the whole population, nearly as 1 to $48\frac{2}{3}$. The proportion of marriages to the whole population is as 1 to 210. The proportion of males to females born is 14 males to 13 females.

Population and Statistical Table.

	Sandwick parish.	Stromness parish	Vill. of Stromness	Total.
Total population,	873	795	1344	3012
Males, -	416	346	493	1255
Females, -	457	449	851	1757
Married persons,	232	238	404	874
Widowers, -	15	11	11	37
Widows, -	27	35	47	109
Male servants,	45	41	—	86
Female servants,	74	45	118	237
Seamen, -	—	2	60	62
Ship-carpenters,	—	—	18	18
Shop-keepers,	1	—	25	26
Weavers, -	7	11	15	33
Tailors, -	2	3	11	16
Shoemakers,	7	7	13	27
Joiners, -	1	5	8	14
Masons, -	1	1	13	15
Coopers, -	—	—	7	7
Blacksmiths,	2	—	15	17
Flax-dressers,	—	—	3	3
Day-labourers,	—	5	22	27
Writers, -	—	—	2	2
Customhouse surveyors.	—	—	2	2
—— tide-waiters.	—	—	3	3
—— boatmen,	—	—	6	6
Surgeons, -	—	—	1	1
Clergyman, established,	—	—	—	1

Manufactures.—Coarse woollen cloths and stuffs are made for household-use, but in no great quantity. Linen is also made for wearing apparel. The principal manufactures carried on here, are knitting stockings, and spinning linen yarn. In the first of these they greatly excel, and from constant practice, make the stockings very smooth and glossy. Young girls of 10 or 12 years of age can knit well. A great part of these stockings is sold to sailors at 1 s. 6 d. to 5 s. a pair. They have been made so fine as to sell for 10 s. or 15 s. a pair.

Kelp.

Kelp.—As the weſt coaſt of theſe pariſhes is high and rocky, the quantity of kelp made is not conſiderable. The ſea-weed on the ſhores is cut and burnt only once in two or three years. No kelp is made from the ſea-ware that is driven aſhore from the ocean. About 150 tons may be made once in three years; that is, at an average, 50 tons yearly; of which about 8 tons are made in the pariſh of Sandwick, and about 42 tons yearly in the pariſh of Stromneſs.

Fiſheries.—The fiſh caught here are cod, ling, ſkate, holybut, haddocks, lobſters, *&c.* Cod and ling are caught about a league's diſtance from the weſt coaſt of theſe pariſhes. Three boats only are employed in this fiſhing in the pariſh of Sandwick, and as many in the pariſh of Stromneſs. The outfit and expence on this fiſhing, and the returns in good ſeaſons, are as follow:

A boat coſts - -	L. 7	0	0
A great line of 1000 fathoms, and 20 ſcore of hooks, - - -	4	0	0
A ſmall line of 300 hooks, -	1	0	0
Total expence of outfit, - -	L. 12	0	0
Returns.			
From 300 to 500 ling, ſay 400 ling, at 1s.	L. 20	0	0
Cod, and other ſmall fiſh caught, worth	12	0	0
Total returns from one boat, -	L. 32	0	0
Yearly expence.			
4 barrels ſalt, if duty paid, is	L. 4	0	0
Tear and wear of boat and lines,	3	0	0
Salting and curing the fiſh, -	2	0	0
Spirits and victuals to fiſhermen,	1	10	0
	10	10	0
Nett yearly profits to be divided, -	L. 21	10	0

The

The above L. 21, 10s. is to be divided among the crew, if they are themſelves the owners of the boat and lines. If they fiſh for an employer, who is owner of the boat and lines, as is generally the caſe, then the crew ſhares L. 14, 6 s. 8 d. and the employer L. 7 : 3 : 4, when the fiſh are cured with duty-paid ſalt. If the fiſh are cured with bonded ſalt, there is an additional profit of L. 1, 12 s. This fiſhing may be more profitable than has been ſtated, in the pariſh of Sandwick, but is ſeldom even ſo profitable in the pariſh of Stromneſs.

Lobſters.—A couple of boats in the pariſh of Stromneſs are employed in catching lobſters, which are ſold to the ſmacks, who carry them to London.

Seals.—It was uſual for a ſloop to go once a-year, about Martinmas, to the ſmall iſle or rock of Soulſkerry, which lies W. N. W. about 10 leagues diſtant, and there kill ſeals, which reſort to that rock in great numbers. The ſurge is ſo great around that rock, that it often happened they could not effect a landing; or, if the men were landed, they, and the ſeals, which they killed, could not be got off but with difficulty, and conſiderable riſk. In November 1786, a ſloop upon this adventure, from the village of Stromneſs, was driven by tempeſtuous weather to the North Faro Iſles, and there wrecked with 22 men aboard, 3 of whom were ſaved, and 19 periſhed. Since that fatal accident, this perilous fiſhing has been abandoned.

Sillock Fiſhing.—The moſt beneficial, and moſt generally uſeful fiſhing, is that of the ſillocks, a ſmall grey fiſh, which are caught in great numbers, from September to March, in the harbour of Stromneſs, to which they uſually reſort for food and ſhelter. This is a fiſh of a ſweet and pleaſant

taſte,

taſte, and yields a conſiderable quantity of oil. From 50 to 100 men and boys may be ſeen catching them in good weather, either with bait or fly, in boats, or along the quays, in the harbour of Stromneſs.

† *Village of Stromneſs.*—This village, ſituated on the weſt ſide of the harbour, near the ſouthmoſt extremity or neſs of this pariſh, from whence it derives its name, was, in the beginning of the preſent century, very inconſiderable, conſiſting only of half a dozen houſes with ſlated roofs, and a few ſcattered huts, the firſt inhabited by two gentlemen of landed property, and two or three ſmall traders; the laſt by a few fiſhermen and mechanics. Two ſmall veſſels, of 30 tons each, were all that then belonged to it. Theſe were employed in catching cod and ling at Barra, and made uſually once a year a voyage to Leith or Norway.

In 1719, this village was aſſeſſed by the borough of Kirkwall, in the payment of ceſs or ſtent, in terms of the 12th act of King William and Queen Mary, 1ſt Parliament 1690, by which act it is declared, That the exporting or importing of native or foreign commodities belongs only to freemen, inhabitants of royal boroughs, excepting the articles of corn, cattle, minerals, coal, ſalt, lime, and ſtone. By this act the boroughs were not authoriſed to admit the traders in villages to a participation of trade. This defect of the law, as it then ſtood, was remedied by the 30th act of King William and Queen Mary, 1ſt Parliament 1693; by which act it was declared, "That the benefit of trade "allowed to royal boroughs, might be communicated in "favours of burghs of regality, barony, and others, on their "relieving the royal boroughs of a proportion of the tax "laid on them." By the articles of Union, 7th act of Queen Anne, article 21. of Parliament 1. 1707, it was declared, "That the rights of royal boroughs ſhould remain

" entire, as they then were, after the Union, and notwith-
" ſtanding thereof." Upon theſe acts the borough of Kirk-
wall claimed right to exact, from the village of Stromneſs, a proportionable ſhare of the ceſs and burdens, which, by the tax-roll that borough was liable to pay; and that, upon payment of ſuch proportion, the borough of Kirkwall would admit the inhabitants of the village of Stromneſs to a communication of trade, which was accordingly complied with, and was continued from 1719 to 25th May 1743, when the inhabitants of the village of Stromneſs refuſed to pay the ceſs or ſtent to the borough of Kirkwall, alleging, that the ſum laid on them was more than their proportion, and more than their trade could bear; and, beſides, that it was partially laid on the ſeveral traders of this village, and not in due proportion to the extent of their trade. The magiſtrates of Kirkwall ſtated to the Honourable the Convention of Royal Boroughs, that, by the tax-roll, they were liable in payment of ceſs and ſtent, (Scots) L. 687 0 0
That miſſive dues, fitting of eques, and collectors ſalaries, amounted to - - 263 0 0

L. 950 0 0

That they only exacted from the village of Stromneſs one third part of this; and that in time paſt all they had received was,

From the village of Stromneſs, - L. 204 0 0
From the traders in other parts, - 154 0 0

L. 358 0 0

So that there ſtill remained a burden on the borough of Kirkwall of L. 592 Scots.

The inhabitants of the village of Stromneſs ſtated, on the other ſide, to the Convention in 1751, that the trade of

of this village was ſmall, and, as it depended on the reſort of ſhipping, it was uncertain: That the borough of Kirkwall enjoyed great advantages from its right to vote for a member of Parliament; from being the ſeat of Juſtice: That the revenues of the borough were great, from their burgage-holdings, ceſs of houſes, fiars, markets, and cuſtoms; and, therefore, one ſixth part of the whole burdens, inſtead of one third part demanded, would be found a full and equal proportion for the village of Stromneſs; which ſixth part of the whole they were willing to pay. This offer was rejected. The matter was brought before the Court of Seſſion; and on the 17th February 1754, a deciſion was obtained, declaring, "There was no ſufficient right "in the borough of Kirkwall to aſſeſs the village of Strom-"neſs, but that the ſaid village ſhould be quit thereof, and "free therefrom, in all time coming." From this deciſion the magiſtrates of Kirkwall appealed to the High Court of Parliament, and this cauſe was heard at the bar of the Houſe of Lords, the 16th January 1758, when the deciſion of the Court of Seſſion was affirmed. By this deciſion the village of Stromneſs, and all the villages throughout Scotland, became free and independent of the Royal Boroughs. Before this proceſs, the trade of this village was greatly cramped by its dependence on the borough of Kirkwall, as well as during the proceſs, by the expences in ſupporting it; which expence hurt the circumſtances of many of the ſmall traders; and one of thoſe who firſt ſuggeſted it, and was moſt active in promoting it, (Alexander Graham), was thereby rendered unable to carry on trade, whoſe widow is ſtill alive, and in reduced circumſtances. The preſent Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain, (then Mr Wedderburn), was counſel for the inhabitants of this village, at the bar of the Houſe of Peers.

Since

Since this ſtruggle for independence, the trade of the village has greatly increaſed, which is in a great meaſure owing to the reſort of ſhipping to this place.

While the American Colonies were connected with, and dependent upon Britain, ſeveral American veſſels came here, and entered their cargoes at the ſight of the officers of the cuſtomhouſe of Kirkwall, preferring this place even to Cowes, in the Iſle of Wight. The advantages reſulting herefrom to this village, induced ſome mercantile people at the borough of Kirkwall to attempt bringing theſe veſſels there; and, in order to effect this, they repreſented the harbour of Stromneſs as a ſmall creek, to which the port of Kirkwall was preferable.

The American goods were unloaded, and weighed aboard an old and large diſmaſted veſſel, which lay in the harbour of Stromneſs for this purpoſe. This diſmaſted veſſel or hulk was brought to the harbour of Kirkwall, with a view to bring the American veſſels there; but this did not ſucceed, as they then preferred going to Cowes, in the Iſle of Wight, and entering at the cuſtomhouſe there, on their way to Holland and the Eaſt countries.

The number of veſſels, with the quantity of rice entered for three years, the duty paid, and drawback upon exportation, with the amount of the remaining duties, was:

Year when entered.	No. of veſſels.	Quantity of rice entered.			Full duty thereof.			Drawback on exportation.			Remaining duties		
		Cwt.	*qr.*	*lb.*	*L.*	*s.*	*d.*	*L.*	*s.*	*d.*	*L.*	*s.*	*d.*
From Oct. 10. 1757 to Oct. 10. 1758.	9	18,254	1	19	5826	5	0	5231	6	$0\frac{1}{2}$	594	18	$11\frac{1}{2}$
From Oct. 1758 to Oct. 1759.	7	21,329	0	20	6801	8	$7\frac{3}{4}$	6130	17	$6\frac{3}{4}$	670	11	1
From Oct. 1759 to Oct. 1760.	3	4871	0	26	1554	14	11	1400	9	$9\frac{1}{4}$	154	5	$1\frac{3}{4}$
	19	44,454	3	9	14,182	8	$6\frac{3}{4}$	12,762	13	$4\frac{1}{2}$	1419	15	$2\frac{1}{4}$

From

From this abstract, taken from the customhouse-books, it appears, there were 19 vessels entered in three years, whose cargoes consisted of 44,454 cwt. 3 qrs. 9 lb. rice; the duty on which, if not exported, would have been L. 14,182 : 8 : 6¾; but, as the whole was exported, the drawback on exportation reduced this duty to L. 1419, 15 s. 2¼ d.

Since the independence of America, all hopes of the produce of the Southern States of North America passing this way are lost. The produce, however, of our settlements at Hudson's Bay still pass this way.

Hudson's Bay Company's Ships.—Hudson's Bay was discovered by Henry Hudson, in 1610. France, after disputing the right to it, finally ceded it to Britain, at the treaty of Utrecht. Since 1670, the trade to that country has been carried on by a Company, who have an exclusive charter. The capital of this Company, originally L. 10,565 : 12 : 6, has been increased to L. 104,146, 17 s. 6 d. This Company fits out three ships, from 150 to 400 tons each, which carry out provisions, guns, powder, shot, hatchets, cloths, *&c.* to be exchanged with the Indians for beaver, and other furs. These vessels usually arrive at the harbour of Stromness about the first of June, where they stop for two or three weeks to take aboard men for their settlements. They engage usually from 60 to 100 men, natives of this country, to go to these settlements, every year. They have about 400 or 500 men in these settlements, of whom it is presumed three-fourths are Orkney, as they find them more sober and tractable than the Irish, and they engage for lower wages than either the English or Irish. The yearly wages they give is, house-carpenters, from L. 20 to L. 36; blacksmiths, from L. 20 to L. 30; sailors, from L. 18 to L. 25; boat-builders, from L. 20 to L. 30;

L. 30; bricklayers or maſons, from L. 20 to L. 25; tailors, from L. 10 to L. 15; labourers, from L. 6 to L. 18. The Company raiſes the wages of theſe men in proportion to the time they remain in their ſervice, becauſe the longer they are, the better they are acquainted with the buſineſs, and conſequently more uſeful.

The Company's ſhips uſually return to the harbour of Stromneſs about November, to land thoſe men who chooſe to return home. The returns to the Company by theſe ſhips, from all their ſettlements, is uſually from 80,000 to 100,000 beaver ſkins, or other furs equal in value to this number of beaver; for all other furs are computed by their relative value to the beaver, as are alſo the goods ſent out from Britain; and conſequently the Company's accounts with their factors in theſe ſettlements are kept in beaver, as ours are in pounds Sterling.

It has been ſaid by a great writer, (Abbé Raynal), that the murmurs of the nation have been excited againſt this Company, both on account of their monopoly, and alſo on account of the great profits they make; which might indeed have been great ſome time ago, when their trade was more extenſive, and not checked by the interference of the Canadian traders, and when the expence of ſupporting their extenſive ſettlements was leſs: but, of late years, it is aſſerted, that they do not divide above 6 or 8 *per cent.* which is no more than the Eaſt India Company, and other trading companies in Britain, have divided.

If the murmurs of the nation have been excited, becauſe of the monopoly which this Company enjoys; ſo alſo, of late years, there have been great complaints in this county, both on account of the ſmall wages given to the labourers, and the great number of them engaged, while the farmers are left without ſervants. The conſtant drain of men from this county to the Greenland and Iceland fiſh-

eries,

eries, the coal-trade, and his Majeſty's navy, together with 200 fencibles raiſed, has tended to foſter theſe complaints, which are principally directed againſt the Hudſon's Bay Company, becauſe they make a yearly demand, and at once, and therefore the more perceptible. We cannot complain that our men are called away to fight our wars; this we can only regret, and that the ſituation of things makes it neceſſary, occaſioned by the turbulence of a neighbouring nation.

——————Tot bella per orbem
Tam multæ ſcelerum facies; non ullus aratro
Dignus honos; ſquallent abductis arva colonis,
Et curvæ rigidum falces conflantur in enſem *.

In time paſt, when there was not ſuch a demand for men from other quarters, the number neceſſary for Hudſon's Bay might well have been ſpared from this county; and although it is no doubt better for a country to keep its natives at home, provided they can be uſefully employed, either in agriculture or manufactures, yet where there are not manufactures, or improvements in agriculture, thus to employ them, it is then better to hire them to thoſe who can uſefully employ them; and alſo better, that they go to hunt the harmleſs and civilized beaver, than, like the Swiſs, to fight the wars of other nations for hire. As to theſe men being idle and uſeleſs to their own country when they return, it may be obſerved, that ſeveral of them are perhaps ſo before they go there, and that this is what often induces them to go.

Notwithſtanding that thoſe who are againſt this emigration, repreſent to thoſe who go, 1ſt, The dangers to be encountered from mountains of ice in going there; 2dly, The ſeverity

* Virg. Georg. lib. i. lin. 505.

ſeverity of the climate, and the danger of being froſt bit; 3dly, The hazard of being cut off by the Indians; yet all this does not deter them from going. But even allowing that all theſe dangers are exaggerated, as they perhaps are, ſince few are froſt bit except through their own inattention, or cut off by the Indians except when it is occaſioned by their own imprudence; yet ſtill their ſolitary ſituation there, might ſeem of itſelf ſufficient to weigh againſt all the pecuniary advantages they can hope to reap in the Company's ſervice; ſince they are cut off from family and friends, and from all ſocial intercourſe but with the natives, where

——————" immerſed in furs
" Lie the groſs race. Nor ſprightly jeſt, nor ſong,
" Nor tenderneſs, they know; nor aught of life,
" Beyond the kindred bears that ſtalk without*"

Notwithſtanding this, too, yet from a reſtleſſneſs of diſpoſition, a deſire of change, and ſmall as the wages are, yet as they are better than the farmers here can afford to give, the Company always procure a ſufficient number of men to go to that bleak climate. For their ſucceſs in procuring theſe men, they are perhaps indebted to their agent at the village of Stromneſs, who is a man well qualified for buſineſs, and attentive to the intereſts of the Company. This agent pays away yearly for the Company from L. 2000 to L. 3000 Sterling, which no doubt greatly tends to quicken the little trade of this place.

Some veſſels from Newcaſtle, Whitby, and Hull, on the whale-fiſhery, for Straits St Davis and Greenland, ſtop ſome days at the harbour of Stromneſs, on their outward paſſage,

* Thomſon's Seaſons, Winter, line 701.

paſſage, to engage men.—A liſt of the number of veſſels that have ſtopped at the harbour of Stromneſs for four years, is ſubjoined, as tending to give the juſteſt idea of the importance of this ſafe harbour. This liſt is taken from the ſurveyor's books.

	1789.	1790.	1791.	1792.	*Total.*
Engliſh,	105	72	96	87	360
Scotch, -	214	121	203	214	752
Iriſh, -	7	13	19	17	56
Dutch, -	2	0	0	0	2
Swedes, -	5	0	5	9	19
Danes, -	9	2	11	5	27
Pruſſians, -	3	2	1	3	9
Dantzickers,	1	3	4	1	9
Americans,	0	0	1	2	3

In 1789,	-	346	
In 1790,	-	213	
In 1791,	-	340	
In 1792,	-	338	
		Total,	1237

From the above liſt it appears, that the average number of veſſels which paſs this way in a year, is 312¼. Before the peace in 1763, 450 or 500 veſſels have paſſed this way in a year. The reaſon why the number paſſing now is not ſo great as formerly, is, that many now go through Pentland Frith, who formerly uſed to paſs by Stromneſs, as they have now become better acquainted with that frith. And as a light-houſe is now erected on the Pentland Skirries in that frith, it may be preſumed that ſtill a greater number will paſs that way, and a leſs number by Stromneſs.

neſs. It has been ſuggeſted, that for the ſafety of the trade paſſing by Stromneſs, it might be neceſſary to erect a fort at the entrance of the harbour, ſince the the French privateers, in time of war, have entered Hoy Sound, and have been within two miles of the harbour. But from the above liſt it will appear, that the number of veſſels paſſing this way is not ſo great as has been ſuppoſed. A frigate ſtationed here, it is probable, would be of more eſſential ſervice, both in defending the harbour, and in ſcouring the coaſt.

Shipping built at, and belonging to Stromneſs.—Several ſmall veſſels, from 30 to 90 tons, have been built here. There are at preſent (1794) 2 brigs and 4 ſloops belonging to the village of Stromneſs, in all about 500 tons. Two of theſe ſloops are uſually employed in the herring-fiſhing. Theſe veſſels go abroad in queſt of freights, as the trade of this place cannot give them employment, as will be ſeen from the following ſtatement of exports and imports.

Exports and Imports.—As there is no manufacture here but that of ſtockings and linen yarn, nor any foreign trade, the exports and imports will appear very inconſiderable, when compared with places of greater trade. In this commercial age a detail of them may be required and read; leaving it at the option of the editor to inſert, and of the reader to peruſe it. The articles of export and import are ſubjoined in detail, upon the beſt information *.

Imports

* Exports in 1792.

Linen yarn, 8500 ſpindles, at 2 s. 3 d. the ſpindle,	L. 956	5	0
Beef (ſalted), 240 barrels, at L. 1, 10 s. the barrel,	360	0	0
Hides (ſalted), 390, at 28 lb. each, is 10,920 lb. at 4 d. the lb.	182	0	0
Feathers, 4424 lb. at 1 s. 2 d. the lb. - -	258	1	4
Carried forward,	L. 1756	6	4

Imports in 1792,	L. 4198	1	8
Exports in 1792,	2371	15	8
Balance of trade against Stromness,	L. 1826	5	4

In

Brought forward,	L. 1756	6	4
Rabbit skins, 36,000, at 8 d. each,	120	0	0
Linen, 2000 yards, at 1 s. each yard,	100	0	0
Stockings, 1440 pair, from 1 s. to 5 s. the pair, say at an average 1 s. 6 d. the pair,	108	0	0
Calf-skins, 1200, at 1 s. each,	60	0	0
Fish, 1000 ling, at 1 s. each,	50	0	0
Butter (grease), 11 barrels, at L. 3, 12 s. the barrel,	39	12	0
Pork (salted), 16 barrels, at L. 1, 15 s. the barrel,	28	0	0
Pens, 100,000, at 5 s. 6 d. the thousand,	27	10	0
Tallow, 12 cwt. at L. 2, 2 s. the cwt.	25	4	0
Pork hams, 160, at 2 s each,	16	0	0
Geese (salted), 10 barrels, at L. 1 : 13 : 4 the barrel,	16	13	4
Geese (smoaked), 240, at 1 s. each,	12	0	0
Neats tongues, 240, at 8 d. each,	8	0	0
Seal skins, 36, at 2 s. 6 d. each,	4	10	0
Total exports,	L. 2371	15	8

N. B. No kelp is stated, because it is not annually made; and when burnt, the greater part belongs to heritors not resident here.

Imports in 1792.

Bale goods, cloths, muslins, &c. from Glasgow,	L. 1000	0	0
Groceries, and sundry small merchandise,	600	0	0
Tow, 600 matts, at 15 s. the matt,	450	0	0
Flax, 6 tons, at L. 37 the ton,	222	0	0
Wool, 516 stones, at 12 s. the stone,	309	12	0
Timber and staves,	150	0	0
Leather, 2100 lb. at 1 s. 6 d. the lb.	157	10	0
Salt, 170 barrels, at 12 s. the barrel,	102	0	0
Meal, 200 bolls, at 12 s. the boll,	120	0	0
Tea, 10 boxes of 86 lb. each, i 860 lb. at 3 s. 2 d. the lb.	136	3	4
Sugar refined, 10 cwt. at L. 6 the cwt.	60	0	0
Carried forward,	L. 3307	5	4

In bad ſeaſons, when the crop fails, the balance of trade will be much more againſt this place, as there has been grain imported to the amount of from L. 500 to L. 1500 in ſuch years.

The ſources from whence this deficiency is made up are theſe; remittances from ſeamen in his Majeſty's navy; freights of veſſels belonging to this place in the carrying trade

Brought forward,	L. 3307	5	4
Sugar unrefined, 10 cwt. at L. 4, 4 s. the cwt.	42	0	0
Snuff, 6 cwt. at L. 12 the cwt.	72	0	0
Hops, 15 cwt. at L. 5 the cwt.	75	0	0
Soap, 50 cwt. at L. 2, 13 s. the cwt.	132	10	0
Bark for tanning, 10 ton, at L. 6 the ton,	60	0	0
Whiſky, 6 hhds. at L. 9 the hhd.	54	0	0
Wine bottles, 40 dozen, at L. 1 the dozen,	40	0	0
Biſcuit, 64 cwt. at 15 s. the cwt.	48	0	0
Porter, 12 hhds. at L. 2, 17 s. the hhd.	34	4	0
Hats, 100, from 2 s. to 15 s. each, ſay 7 s. each,	35	0	0
Molaſſes, 20 cwt. at L. 1, 8 s. the cwt.	28	0	0
Crown and cryſtal glaſs and bottles,	24	4	0
Tar, 24 barrels, at 15 s. the barrel,	18	0	0
Paper, 30 reams, at 10 s. the ream,	15	0	0
Coals, 30 tons, at 10 s. the ton,	15	0	0
Flour, 20 cwt. at 16 s. the cwt.	16	0	0
Barley, 20 cwt. at 11 s. the cwt.	11	0	0
Pots, 20 cwt. at 14 s. the cwt.	14	0	0
Iron, 24 cwt. at L. 16 the ton,	19	4	0
Nails, 10 cwt. at L. 1, 12 s, the cwt.	16	0	0
Cards for wool and tow, 24 doz. at 15 s. the doz.	18	0	0
Hemp dreſſed, 500 lb. at 7 d. the lb.	14	11	8
Earthen ware, 12 crates, at L. 1 the crate,	12	0	0
Cart-wheels, 6 pair, at L. 2, 2 s. the pair,	12	12	0
Tobacco, 1 cwt.	11	0	0
Powder and ſhot, 6 cwt. of both,	13	10	0
Fiſhing lines, and ſundry other ſmall articles,	40	0	0
Total imports,	L. 4198	1	8

trade abroad; money received from ſhipping for freſh proviſions, or ſpent by ſeamen in the public inns; remittances from thoſe in the ſervice of the Hudſon's Bay Company. Theſe ſources are more than ſufficient to balance the amount of imports, as appears evident, ſince the ſtyle of living has been greatly increaſing for ſome years paſt; new houſes have been built every year; the trading people have purchaſed lands when they came into the market for ſale; and there have been only two or three bankruptcies among them for 30 years paſt; and prior to that period, they were ſtill more rare, and almoſt unheard of; ſo that, if what great writer (Lord Kames) obſerves be true, that the number of bankruptcies prove the increaſe of trade, then the trade of this village has been, and ſtill is low.

As the whole exports and imports amount only to L. 6569 : 16 : 8, if we were to ſuppoſe a nett profit on the whole of 20 *per cent.* this would only be L. 1313 : 19 : 3, which, if divided among 26 ſhopkeepers, would be L. 50, 10 s. 8¾ d. to each. This would appear a ſum ſmall enough for the ſupport of a family; nevertheleſs, by œconomy and ſtrict attention to their affairs, the greater part of them increaſe their capitals, build houſes, purchaſe lands, and in a courſe of 30 years, are in circumſtances to retire from buſineſs, having realiſed L. 1000 or L. 2000, upon the intereſt, or returns of which, they live comfortably, and with which they are as well ſatisfied, as the great merchants in more opulent places when they have acquired a plumb of L. 100,000.

——— Multa petentibus
Deſunt multa. Bene eſt, cui Deus obtulit
Parca, quod ſatis eſt, manu *.

Retailers

* Hor. lib. 3. ode 16.

Retailers of Ale and Spirits.—As the exciſe of this county is compounded, many of the farmers brew ale for ſale during winter, ſo that the number of occaſional retailers cannot be preciſely aſcertained; and although a great deal of grain is conſumed in this way, and there are complaints againſt it, yet it may be preſumed, that it is neither ſo pernicious to the health, the morals, or the circumſtances of the people as drinking ſpirits, which prevails in other countries among the lower claſſes, and at all ſeaſons of the year; whereas this practice of brewing ale prevails among the farmers here only during winter, or the firſt of ſpring. Nor is it here the ſottiſh enjoyment of drinking alone; they often have muſic and dancing at theſe meetings;

> ——— and, ſhook to notes
> Of native muſic, the reſpondent dance.
> Thus jocund fleets with them the winter night*.

The regular and conſtant retailers of ale and ſpirits are: Retailers of ale, 23 in the village of Stromneſs; retailers of ſpirits, 3 in Sandwich pariſh, 3 in Stromneſs pariſh, and 7 in the village of Stromneſs.

Church, Patron, Stipend.—There is a church in each of theſe pariſhes. The pariſh church of Stromneſs formerly ſtood a mile diſtant from where the village is ſituated; at preſent, the pariſh-church ſtands in the village of Stromneſs, and the old pariſh-church is ruinous. The preſent church was built in 1717, and is not large enough to accommodate the people of the pariſh and village, as the inhabitants of the village have increaſed greatly ſince that time. The church of Sandwick was rebuilt in 1670, by Andrew Honyman, Biſhop of Orkney; and again rebuilt in

* Thomſon's Seaſons, Winter, line 531.

in 1767. It was dedicated to St Peter, as was alſo the old pariſh-church of Stromneſs, now ruinous. The miniſter preaches at each of the two pariſh-churches alternately.

The right of preſentation, formerly in the biſhop, paſſed to the Crown, upon the abolition of Epiſcopacy, along with the biſhoprick lands; and is now veſted in, and exerciſed by the Right Honourable Lord Dundas of Aſke, who holds the biſhoprick lands in leaſe from the Exchequer.

The ſtipend, by decreet of the Court of Seſſion in 1753, is 96 meels of malt, L. 15 money, (in lieu of 6 barrels butter), L. 10 money, (in lieu of vicarages), and L. 3, 6 s. 8 d. for communion-elements. It is troubleſome to collect this ſtipend, as it is paid by nearly 100 heritors. When it is regularly paid, and malt ſells at 10 s. *per* meel, it is worth L. 76 : 6 : 8, including the money allowed for communion-elements. The village of Stromneſs pays no part of ſtipend, although the population of that village is not far ſhort of that of both the country pariſhes.

There is a glebe in each of theſe pariſhes, and both may be worth about L. 9 Sterling yearly rent. The miniſter of theſe pariſhes formerly reſided in the pariſh of Sandwick until the year 1780, when a new manſe was built in the pariſh of Stromneſs, about a mile from the village.

Liſt of Miniſters of theſe Pariſhes.—Mr John Niſbet, admitted 1715, died 1746, was 31 years miniſter; Mr James Tyrie, admitted May 1747, died 1778, was 31 years miniſter; Mr John Falconer, admitted 1779, died 1792, was 13 years miniſter; Mr William Clouſton, admitted 1794.

Schools.—There is no parochial ſchool in either of theſe pariſhes. The Society for propagating Chriſtian Knowledge gives L. 8 yearly to a ſchoolmaſter, and L. 3 yearly to a ſchool-miſtreſs, both in the village of Stromneſs. The

ſchool-

ſchool-fees are, from 6 d. to 1 s. quarterly, for teaching to read and write; and 1 s. 6 d. or 2 s. for writing and arithmetic. The ſchools are,

In the village of Stromneſs, one grammar-ſchool, where Latin is taught. Four ſchools, where the ſchoolmaſters teach reading, writing, and arithmetic. Three ſchools, in which ſchool-miſtreſſes teach reading, knitting ſtockings, and ſewing white ſeam.

In the pariſh of Sandwick, one ſchool, in which a ſchool-miſtreſs teaches to read.

There are uſually from 200 to 350 ſcholars at all theſe ſchools.

Poor.—There are about 50 poor perſons in the pariſh and village of Stromneſs, and 12 poor perſons in the pariſh of Sandwick, to whom the ſeſſions give money twice or thrice a-year. The funds for their ſupport are, from collections received at church on Sabbath, and on occaſion of adminiſtering the ſacrament of the Lord's Supper, dues of pall or mortcloth, and fines; all which, in the pariſh of Sandwick, may amount yearly to about L. 4 10 0

Deduct ſalary to ſeſſion-clerk and officer, 1 10 0

Remains for ſupport of poor in Sandwick, L. 3 0 0

The ſacrament of the Lords ſupper is rarely adminiſtered at the church of Sandwick, by reaſon of its great diſtance from the place of the miniſter's preſent reſidence, and, by conſequence, the collections at ſacramental occaſions add to the funds for ſupporting the poor in the village and pariſh of Stromneſs, which for 3 years were,

In

	In 1787.			*In* 1788.			*In* 1789.		
	L.	*s.*	*d.*	*L.*	*s.*	*d.*	*L.*	*s.*	*d.*
Sunday's collections,	5	16	2¼	6	16	3¼	3	13	0½
Sacrament. collect.	4	10	0	4	13	6	4	19	1
Mortcloth dues,	1	9	6	2	10	0	2	1	0
Fines, -	1	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0
Total, -	12	15	8¼	13	19	9¼	30	13	1½

Total funds for three years, -	L.	47	8	7
Yearly average is, - -		15	16	2¼
Deduct yearly salary to session-clerk and officer,		4	10	0
Remains to be divided among the poor yearly, - -	L.	11	6	2¼

Fuel.—As there are no peat-mosses in the parish of Sandwick, the inhabitants of that parish bring their peats from the mosses of the neighbouring parish of Harray, distant 5 or 6 miles. This employs them and their horses the greater part of the summer, when, otherwise, they might be employed in cleaning their lands, and preparing manure, so that this distance from fuel is consequently a great bar to improvement, either in the way of inclosing, fallowing, or raising green crops. The small mosses in the parish of Stromness at present supply the parish; but it is probable that, in 30 or 40 years hence, these mosses will either be exhausted, or covered with water, so as to be inaccessible. The inhabitants of the village of Stromness cut part of their peats in the parish mosses; but the greater part of this village is supplied with peats brought by sea from other parishes, the distance of 5 or 6 miles. The duty being now taken off coals, the inhabitants of this village will probably use peats for their kitchen-fires, and coals for other fires.

Roads.

Roads.—There are no made roads through theſe pariſhes but one of two miles in length, which leads from the village of Stromneſs towards the road that leads to the borough of Kirkwall. The roads through the pariſh of Sandwick are naturally good, as the ground is dry. The roads through the pariſh of Stromneſs are, for the moſt part, bad in winter, as the grounds are wet. In one or two places the roads are ſcarcely paſſable on horſeback; and although the inhabitants of two or three pariſhes muſt paſs by theſe bad roads, in carrying the produce of their farms to ſale at the village of Stromneſs, yet it has never been attempted to make theſe roads better; although this might be done at no great expence of labour.

Bridges.—There is only one bridge, and that in the pariſh of Stromneſs, at the entrance to the loch of Stenneſs, where it communicates with the ſea. This bridge may be about 100 or 150 yards; it has no arches, but inſtead of theſe, logs of wood are laid acroſs 3 or 4 openings, through which the ſea paſſes. It is thought by ſome, that if the ground was cleared, a ſalmon-fiſhery might be here eſtabliſhed.

Millſtones.—There is a millſtone quarry on the weſt coaſt of the pariſh of Sandwick, out of which about 10 millſtones are wrought annually, at the price of 2 s. for each inch that the ſtone is thick in the eye. From this quarry moſt of the mills in the county are ſupplied.

Slates.—There is a ſlate-quarry in the ſouth-weſt extremity of the pariſh of Stromneſs, from which from 30,000 to 40,000 ſlates are annually ſold. They are ſtrong, thick, and large, laſt long, and are the beſt in this county. They might be wrought in greater quantity were labourers to be got.

got. They are better adapted to this climate than Eaſdale ſlates; and yet, becauſe theſe laſt have a preferable appearance, they are more uſed at the village of Stromneſs, notwithſtanding that the pariſh ſlates are cheaper, can be brought by water, and conſequently not dear in carriage.

Limeſtone.—There is plenty of limeſtone in theſe pariſhes, but through the ſcarcity of fuel wherewith to burn it, and of hands whereby to work it, there is no lime made in the pariſh of Stromneſs, and but an inconſiderable quantity in the pariſh of Sandwick, by the principal heritor there.

Freeſtone.—Freeſtone has been lately found in the pariſh of Sandwick, but it is hard, and not of good quality.

Minerals.—There are appearances of lead and iron ore in the pariſh of Stromneſs. The lead-ore in the clefts of the rocks has the appearance of melted lead. In 1755, miners from England wrought the lead-mines, and ſent away a conſiderable quantity of the ore; but, either the ore was not rich enough to repay the expences, or the vein was ſmall and ſoon exhauſted, or the work was unſkilfully carried on, and too expenſively managed; for one or other of theſe reaſons it was abandoned. A few years afterwards the attempt was again made to open the lead-mines in another part of this pariſh, which alſo failed.

Mineral Springs.—There are ſome mineral ſprings in theſe pariſhes. There is one in the vicinity of the village of Stromneſs, which has been tried for ſcorbutic complaints, and has ſometimes proved ſucceſsful.

Birds.—The birds, both domeſtic and migratory, are ſuch as are common to other parts of this county. About 80

years ago, moorfowl frequented ſome of the hills, and were ſhot within a mile of the village of Stromneſs; but now there is no heath there, nor are moorfowl to be found in either of theſe pariſhes.

Plants.—There are no plants here but ſuch as are common in this county, and have been repeatedly deſcribed. The ſcurvy-graſs abounds in many places, and grows on the roofs, and along the walls of old houſes in the village of Stromneſs. Small black, or whortle berries, probably ſimilar to the *vaccinia nigra* of Virgil, but of inferior quality, were formerly found on the hills in the vicinity of the village of Stromneſs; but none grow there now, and they are rarely to be met with on any of the hills of theſe pariſhes.

Molucca Beans.—Theſe have ſometimes, but rarely, been found along the ſea-coaſts of theſe pariſhes.

Claik Geeſe, Barnacles.—Theſe have been found ſticking to pieces of timber, as deſcribed by Wallace in his deſcription of Orkney, and alſo by Sir Robert Sibbald, in his Natural Hiſtory of Scotland, book 3. part 2. chap. 12. under the article *Concha Anatifera.* A late author aſſerts, that the barnacles lay their eggs, and leaving them at the mercy of the waves, they ſtick to what they happen to meet with, rotten timber, or maritime plants, and ſo are hatched.

Figured Stones.—On the weſt ſide of Sandwick pariſh, along the craggy cliffs, are found, horizontally laid, cauſeways, or ſtratums of figured ſtones, of various irregular figures, the work of nature, and the effect of time; but none of theſe figured ſtones bear any reſemblance to birds

or fiſhes. Near to theſe figured ſtones, there is, in a chaſm in theſe craggy cliffs, a figure bearing a reſemblance to a biſhop dreſſed in his Epiſcopal robes *.

On the eaſt ſide of the pariſh of Sandwick, near the confines of the pariſh of Stenneſs, are to be ſeen the beds, from whence it is ſuppoſed the large ſtanding ſtones, which compoſe the druidical temple erected in that pariſh, have been taken. This bed, from whence theſe ſtones have been taken, is about a mile and a half diſtant from the place where theſe ſtones are erected. They muſt have had, in ancient times, ſome method of moving large bodies, that has not probably been handed down to us.

Antiquities.—There is in the pariſh of Stromneſs, contiguous to where the church of that pariſh formerly ſtood, a ſpot of ground of about half an acre, which bears the name of the Monker-houſe, (monks houſe), which has probably been the ſeat of ſome religious houſe in the times of Popery. On the weſt coaſt of the pariſh of Sandwick, cloſe by the ſea-ſhore, is to be ſeen the ruins or remains of a large building, which yet bears the name of the Caſtle of Snuſgar.

Tumuli.—There are ſeveral tumuli, barrows, or burying-places, in theſe pariſhes. One of theſe, containing three ſtone cheſts, was opened in the pariſh of Sandwick, by Sir Joſeph Banks, in preſence of Dr Solander, Dr Van Troil, and Dr Lind, on their return from Iceland in 1772. In one of theſe cheſts or coffins was found a human ſkeleton, lying on its ſide, with the knees bent; in the hollow of which was found a bag, which appeared to be made of ruſhes, and contained a parcel of boſes bruiſed ſmall, and alſo

* See a particular account of theſe figured ſtones in the 1ſt volume of the Tranſactions of the Antiquarian Society of Edinburgh.

alſo ſome human teeth. It was ſuppoſed by Sir Joſeph Banks and Dr Solander, that this bag contained the remains or aſhes of his wife, or of ſome near relation, after burning.

In the ſecond of theſe cheſts was found a ſkeleton in a ſitting poſture, as if ſeated on the ground, and the legs ſtretched out horizontally. To keep the body erect, ſtones were built up oppoſite to the breaſt, as high as the crown of the head. The whole was covered with a large ſtone.

In the third cheſt was found, in one end, the bones of a human body thrown together promiſcuouſly; in the other end, a quantity of cheſnut-coloured hair, covered with a turf, and under the hair about four dozen of beads flattened on the ſides, lying as if on a ſtring; about the middle of which was a locket of bone, and underneath the beads a parcel of bruiſed bones, like to thoſe found in the bag in the firſt cheſt. When the hair was firſt touched it appeared rotten, and the beads friable; but when expoſed to the air, the hair was found to be ſtrong, and the beads hard. The beads were black, but it could not be diſcovered what they were compoſed of.

Several other tumuli have been opened, which had much the ſame appearance. In ſome of theſe tumuli were found ſtone-cheſts of about 15 or 18 inches ſquare, in which cheſts were depoſited urns containing aſhes; in others of theſe cheſts were found aſhes and fragments of bones, without urns.

In digging for ſtones, in one of theſe tumuli was found an urn ſhaped like a jar, and of a ſize ſufficient to contain 30 Scotch pints. It contained aſhes and fragments of bones. The colour on the outſide was that of burnt cork, and on the inſide grey. The country man who found it, left it expoſed to the air for a night, with a view to have taken it up whole next day; but one of his neighbours hearing

hearing of it, and ſuppoſing that it contained ſome money, went to the place clandeſtinely on the night, and broke it. Some of its fragments were ſent to Sir Joſeph Banks, who could not diſcover whether it was made of ſtone, or ſome other compound matter.

Theſe tumuli were probably raiſed before the introduction of Chriſtianity into theſe iſlands, and by conſequence at leaſt twelve or thirteen centuries ago, or more, if what hiſtorians tells us be true, that Servanus, (St Serf), preceptor to the famous Kentigern, was Biſhop of Orkney about the year 560; and it is to be preſumed, that Chriſtianity was preached here before the regular eſtabliſhment of biſhops: And the inhabitants of theſe iſlands having received Chriſtianity, continued, in ſo far as we know, to be ſteadily attached to it, and therefore would probably then relinquiſh their former method of burial; and as a proof of their attachment to Chriſtianity at a later period, they ſent, in 1071, one of their clergy to the Archbiſhop of York, who then poſſeſſed a juriſdiction over the Church of Scotland, deſiring that he would conſtitute that clergyman to be their biſhop.

Chapels.— The remains of ſeveral old ruinous chapels are to be found in theſe pariſhes, but there are no particular traditions concerning them.

Superſtitious Obſervances.—In a part of the pariſh of Sandwick, every family that has a herd of ſwine, kills a ſow on the 17th day of December, and thence it is called Sow-day. There is no tradition as to the origin of this practice.

In the ſame place, the people do no work on the 3d day of March, in commemoration of the day on which the church of Sandwick was conſecrated; and as the church

was

was dedicated to St Peter, they alſo abſtain from working for themſelves on St Peter's day, (29th June), but they will work to another perſon who employs them.

Eminent Men.—Theſe pariſhes have produced no men eminent in literature, arts, or arms, nor have any reſided here diſtinguiſhed for rank, unleſs George Graham, the laſt Biſhop of Orkney, who had a country ſeat in each of theſe pariſhes.—Several young men have gone abroad in the ſeafaring and mercantile line, who have riſen to opulence, and it is to theſe lines that their genius and opportunities lead them. As the village of Stromneſs cannot be conſidered as of more than a century's ſtanding, there has not as yet, perhaps, been time enough to prove whether the genius of the people of this village may lead them to excel in literature, and the higher attainments of ſcience; and they are, perhaps, as uſeful to themſelves and their country, in the profeſſions they at preſent purſue, as they would be in theſe.

Treatment of ſhipwrecked People.—Thoſe that have the misfortune to be ſhipwrecked on the coaſts of theſe pariſhes uſually receive all neceſſary aſſiſtance. The charge made for ſuch aſſiſtance has indeed been ſcrupled, and conſequently often ſettled by the Vice-Admiral Depute. In 1771, a ſloop laden with geneva and lintſeed, was wrecked cloſe by the pariſh-church of Sandwick; and, as no other ſecure place could be had ſo near, the miniſter of theſe pariſhes, (Mr James Tyrie), from a principle of humanity, and hearkening to the dictates of benevolence, rather than to prudence and a ſtrict regard to the duties of his ſtation, conſented, along with the heritors, that the cargo ſhould be lodged in the church, until it could be conveniently removed

moved to a place of ſafety. In 1788 a ſhip laden with deals was wrecked at the ſame place. The cargo was ſaved by the aſſiſtance of the people of that pariſh, but the Captain, or owners, either refuſed or delayed to pay the ſalvage as previouſly agreed upon. This delay in payment occaſioned the plunder of the cargo of a ſmall ſloop, wrecked in the ſame place in 1790. The people, diſappointed of their juſt expectations of the ſalvage due them for the former wreck, would not work to ſave the cargo of this ſloop, nor was there any perſon of ſufficient influence in the pariſh to direct them. The Captain took little concern in the matter, and the Vice-Admiral Depute was diſtant 15 miles. As the mob often are influenced by paſſion and reſentment rather than by juſtice and reaſon, they thought this was a proper opportunity for repaying themſelves of the ſalvage due them for the former wreck, as if all veſſels were the property of one man, not conſidering, that in thus doing what they thought an act of juſtice to themſelves, they were doing injuſtice to the proprietors of the cargo. Others thought, that as no perſon appeared to direct them to ſave the cargo, there would be no injuſtice in taking away what, in a few hours, would be loſt in the ſea, and conſequently of no value to any perſon. The cargo was conſequently plundered, and ſeveral perſons were criminally tried before the Juſticiary Court, but none were condemned; all were acquitted. This is the only inſtance wherein any perſon belonging to theſe pariſhes has been criminally tried.—The ſhipwrecks on the coaſts of theſe pariſhes are not many, as may be ſeen by the following liſt for the period of 33 years laſt paſt.

In

	Tonnage.	Suppoſed Value.
In 1761, Capt. Watt, from America, with flax*, &c. -	250	L. 4000 o o
In 1772, Capt. Shaw, from England, with timber *, &c. -	1000	5000 o o
In 1771, Capt. Bell, of Scotland, with geneva *, &c. -	60	5000 o o
In 1776, Capt. Sands, of Scotland, with ſlates *, -	100	600 o o
In 1778, Capt. Johnſton, of Scotland, with kelp, - -	40	300 o o
In 1787, Capt. Weathead, from Hamburgh, with oil *, &c.	400	3000 o o
In 1788, Capt. Newton, from England, with deals *, -	200	1000 o o
In 1790, Capt. ——— of Scotland, with ſlates, -	80	600 o o
In 1790, Capt. Budge, of Scotland, with flax, &c. -	30	500 o o
Total tonnage and value,	2160	L. 20,000 o o

N. B.—The cargoes of thoſe marked thus * were ſaved.

Character.—The people are induſtrious, and attentive to their intereſt, and this laſt is a leading feature in their character. They may ſtill be conſidered as œconomical, although in this they are far ſhort of the laſt age. Among a body of 3000 people, it may be preſumed that there are ſome of vicious character and depraved manners; but, in general, they are decent in their behaviour, reſpectful to their ſuperiors, and modeſt in their carriage and converſation, eſpecially the women. In a ſea-port ſuch as Stromneſs,

neſs, to which there is a great reſort of ſhipping, it might be conjectured, that immoralities and a depravity of manners might prevail; but it is to be obſerved to their honour, that there has been only one baſtard child to a ſtranger for 10 years paſt.—They are regular in attending divine ſervice, and are neither enthuſiaſtic nor ſuperſtitious in their religious principles: *Religentem, non religioſum debet eſſe*, may apply to the greater part. There are no ſectaries here; all are of the Eſtabliſhed Church.—They are fond of dreſs, the moſt venial of all modern luxuries; but their regard to their intereſt keeps them from exceſs in this. They live pretty cloſe and quietly at home. Their habits of life leading them to affairs of intereſt, there are few inclined to reading, and their genius is not turned to poetry. They are fond of muſic and dancing, and a dancing-maſter is ſure to meet with encouragement at the village of Stromneſs. They excel in the knowledge of ſea-affairs and what reſpects ſhipping, and their genius ſeems to be turned this way.—Some were formerly litigious, and inclined to enter into law-ſuits; but theſe having hurt their circumſtances hereby, this has ſerved to check this ſpirit in others.—They have no turn to the military line, and there is rarely an inſtance of any one enliſting as a ſoldier.—They prefer the rigour of the ſevere climate of Hudſon's Bay, to the idleneſs and ſhowy appearance of a ſoldier. Thoſe who make ſome little fortune in the mercantile line at the village of Stromneſs, are perhaps envied by others not ſo induſtrious; but the people in general, are ſatisfied with their ſituation. *Contentus vivere parvo*, is as much known and practiſed here as in moſt places.

Advantages and Diſadvantages—The reſort of ſhipping to the harbour of Stromneſs, is no doubt an advantage to the farmers, as hereby a readier market is found, and a higher

higher price got for beef, butter, poultry, &c. but it does not tend to raiſe the price of grain, for grain is generally as high, and ſometimes higher, in other parts of the county, than it is here; and when the little advantages which the farmer has by the higher price of theſe ſmall articles, are balanced with the diſadvantages he feels from the ſcarcity of ſervants, and their increaſed wages, both occaſioned by the frequent opportunities which the young men have of going abroad, it will be found that the farmers advantages are not great; which appears evident from this, that the farmers were in as good circumſtances 50 years ago as they are at preſent.

The inhabitants of the village of Stromneſs certainly feel the advantages reſulting from the reſort of ſhipping, for there are ſeveral who leave their mechanic trades and betake themſelves to traffic with the ſhipping, and in a few years raiſe ſome little capital, and build houſes. By the reſort of ſhipping a readier ſale is found for the ſtockings manufactured here, which is one of the greateſt advantages, as it encourages honeſt induſtry. The money ſpent here by ſeamen, or given for proviſions, circulates, and tends to increaſe the wealth of the place; but it alſo probably produces theſe effects: The ſtyle and taſte for better living is hereby increaſed, and this taſte being once acquired, leads many to go abroad to acquire wealth to gratify it, which occaſions a ſcarcity of hands for the purpoſes of agriculture.

It might be reckoned among the advantages, that there is plenty of limeſtone in theſe pariſhes; but through the ſcarcity of hands, and of fuel, it is of no ſervice.—The ſcarcity of fuel is a great diſadvantage, and in a few years, muſt hurt agriculture, and leſſen the value of property.—The badneſs of the roads in winter is an inconvenience to all who muſt paſs them, but eſpecially to the farmer, either

in carrying grain to the mill, or in delivering his rent.—The payment of the rent moſtly in malt is a bar to improvements, becauſe, on ſmall farms, they cannot afford to pay the rent, and alſo fallow any conſiderable part of their lands.

Means by which their Condition might be ameliorated.—The condition of the farmers might be ameliorated by theſe means: 1ſt, To grant them long leaſes: 2dly, To repair their houſes: 3dly, That the proprietor incloſe, at his own expence, one or two acres on each farm: 4thly, That the proprietor ſupply the farmer with graſs-ſeeds for the firſt year to ſow theſe two acres, and direct him in the management, and make it a nullity in his leaſe if he does not keep the like quantity of ground in ſown graſs, for a certain number of years, until he is ſenſible of the benefit of it: 5thly, That one-half the rent be converted to money: 6thly, That the roads be made good: 7thly, That the limeſtone be burnt, ſince, dear as the fuel is, it may be burnt to advantage.

As there is plenty of water, a tannery might be eſtabliſhed near the village of Stromneſs. Some branch of manufacture might be eſtabliſhed, wherein to employ the women to more advantage than knitting ſtockings.

As the genius of the people is turned to ſea-affairs, it would be of great advantage if there were a few men of ſpirit and enterprize, and poſſeſſed of capital ſufficient to carry on the herring-fiſhery, rope-making, ſail-making, net-making. As there is a great reſort of ſhipping, there would be a readier ſale for ſome of theſe articles than at Cromarty, where ſome of theſe branches were carried on by the late Mr Roſs of that place.

Comparative

Comparative View of the State of theſe Pariſhes, in 1700 *and* 1794.

In 1700, there were only 5 houſes with ſlated roofs, and a few ſcattered huts in the village of Stromneſs, the rent of all which might be about L. 30.

In 1794, there are 130 houſes with ſlated roofs, and in all 222 inhabited houſes, which might rent at L. 561.

In 1700, the ground on which to build a houſe might have been purchaſed for L. 5.

In 1794, the ſame ground would coſt L. 30 or L. 40.

In 1700, there were only 2 ſmall ſloops belonging to this village, of 30 tons each.

In 1794, there are 2 brigs and 4 ſloops, in all 500 tons.

In 1700, the whole exports and imports might be L. 400.

In 1792, the whole exports and imports amount to L. 6560.

In 1700, the uſe of tea was unknown, even in the families of gentlemen of the firſt landed property.

In 1792, 860 pounds of tea were imported, and tea is drunk by tradeſmen and mechanics.

In 1700, gentlemen of landed property, and their families, were clothed in home manufactures.

In 1794, tradeſmen and mechanics are clothed, for the moſt part, in Engliſh cloths.

In 1700, the wives and daughters of gentlemen of landed property, ſpun and manufactured their own wearing apparel.

In 1794, the wives and daughters of tradeſmen and mechanics dreſs in cottons and printed muſlins.

In 1700, Orkney cheeſe, oat-cakes, and ale brewed without hops, were generally preſented at chriſtenings.

In 1794, Engliſh cheeſe, white bread, cinnamon waters, and wine, are preſented at chriſtenings.

In

In 1700, hops were not uſed in brewing ale.
In 1792, 15 cwt. hops were imported.
In 1700, a good cow was bought for 8 s. or 10 s.
In 1794, a good cow ſells for L. 2.
In 1700, the wages of a maid-ſervant was 5 s. a-year.
In 1794, the wages of a maid-ſervant is 15 s. or L. 1 a-year.
In 1700, no dancing-ſchool had ever been in theſe pariſhes.
In 1793, a dancing-maſter opened a ſchool, obtained 40 or 50 ſcholars, and drew L. 50 in four months.

NUM-

NUMBER XXII.

PARISH OF DEER,

(COUNTY, SYNOD, AND PRESBYTERY OF ABERDEEN.)

By Mr GEORGE CRUDEN, *Schoolmaſter of Deer.*

Name, &c.

IN the records of the preſbytery, the name of this pariſh is variouſly ſpelled *Deare*, *Diere*, *Dier*, and *Deer*. The laſt now prevails; and the word is ſaid to be of Gaelic origin. *De a'r'*, contracted for *De adhra*, ſignifies, *The worſhip of God*, and may have been applied to this place, becauſe here probably the firſt church in this corner was erected. Deer is the mother-church of the preſbytery.

The pariſh of Fetter-Angus, which is a detached portion of the county of Banff, and lies along the north-eaſt ſide of Deer, was annexed to this pariſh in the year 1618. Before that period, the cure of the former was ſerved by the miniſter of St Fergus. The foundation of the church, which, like the pariſh, has been ſmall, is to be ſeen, and the church-yard is ſtill uſed for burial-ground.

Situation, Extent, &c.—Deer is ſituated almoſt in the centre of the diſtrict of Buchan, and is bounded on the N. by the pariſh of Strichen; on the E. by Lonmay and Longſide; on the S. by Cruden and Ellon; and on the W. by Newdeer. From N. to S. its greateſt extent is 10 miles; and its mean breadth may be 5½ miles. The high road from Aberdeen to Fraſerburgh cuts it longitudinally, and interſected by the roads from Banff and Old Meldrum to Peterhead. One branch of the river Ugie runs through the middle of the pariſh; the other branch enters it for a ſhort way on the N. E. Theſe, and the other ſtreams in the pariſh, turn 13 corn-mills, 3 fulling-mills, 2 lint-mills, and a ſet of bleaching machinery.

Surface and Soil.—There is no hill of any conſiderable altitude in this pariſh. Irregular ridges of riſing grounds run through it in every direction, forming a multitude of vallies equally irregular. Some of the uplands are covered with heath, and a poor kind of graſs; others are planted with wood; many of them are cultivated; and moſt of them ſuſceptible of cultivation. The *braes*, and lower parts of the pariſh, are in general beſt cultivated, and well adapted either for corn or paſture. An irregular plain of conſiderable extent, lying round the church and village of Deer, is reckoned one of the beſt ſummer ſcenes in the north.

Dicas adductum propius frondere Tarentum. HOR.

On the north of this place lie the woods of Pitfour, abounding with beautiful ſcenery; in the middle of which ſtands the ſeat of James Ferguſon, Eſq; preſent Member of Parliament for the county.

The ſoil is generally light, upon a gravelly, clayey, or rocky bottom, abounding with ſmall ſtones.

State

State of Property.—This pariſh contains 120 old *ploughs* of land. In former times one tenant poſſeſſed a *plough*, and had always under him ſeveral *cottars*, or ſubtenants, who held of no other ſuperior, and were bound to perſonal ſervice for part of the rents of their crofts. There are ſtill ſubtenants on the larger farms. The generality of tenants, however, hold immediately of the heritor; and the practice of dividing the *ploughs*, which is very general here, accommodates the farms to the circumſtances of the loweſt claſs of people, and holds out to them a more independent, though ſeldom a leſs laborious way of life than the ſubtenants enjoy. There are at preſent about 350 tenants in the pariſh. Nineteen years is the moſt common term of a leaſe.

Farming, &c.—The old ſyſtem of huſbandry prevailed univerſally in this place till about 40 years ago, when the introduction of lime gave it a new turn. Watering began to be uſed here about the ſame time with apparent ſucceſs; but experience at laſt ſhewed it to be unfit for this ſoil. Water, however, has been applied in this country in general only for raiſing crops of corn; and, perhaps, if watered meadows were laid out in the accurate manner in which they have been done in Wiltſhire, and other counties in the ſouth of England, they may be, allowing for the difference of climate, nearly equally beneficial here. Soon after water began to be uſed as a manure, the ſowing of turnip and graſs-ſeeds was introduced into the pariſh, and ſince this was generally practiſed, agriculture has undergone little alteration. Lime is always the firſt ſtep in improvement, and the farm is afterwards managed by white and green crops and paſture. Some perſons have eſtabliſhed a regular rotation of crops on their farms; but this is very far from being the general practice. The ſhort-

neſs

neſs of the leaſes is particularly an obſtacle to ſyſtematic farming. The beſt rotations eſtabliſhed here, though not the beſt to be wiſhed, are on *infield*, or ſtrong land, 1ſt year, oats; 2d, bear; 3d, oats; 4th, dunged and turnip; 5th, bear; 6th, hay; 7th, 8th, 9th, paſture: On *outfield*, 1ſt and 2d, oats; 3d, dunged and turnip, or peaſe; 4th, bear or oats; 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, paſture *.

The lateſt improvements in the farming line which have taken place here, are the revival of work-oxen, two-horſe ploughs, winnowing machines in mills and barns, different ſpecies of early oats, particularly Magbiehill oats, and brick pavement in corn-kilns. Four or ſix oxen are uſed in a plough, yoked with collars. Brick pavement for kilns deſerves the attention of every farmer. A kiln, 9 feet in diameter, coſts L. 3 Sterling, and will dry 8 or 10 bolls a-day.

The rent of land in this pariſh is as follows: *Infield*, from 10s. to L. 1 *per* acre; *outfield*, from 2 s. 6 d. to 12 s.; meadow,

* The following rotations, the moſt proper for this diſtrict, are extracted from ſome rules, which Mr Ferguſon of Pitfour has drawn up for the information of his tenants:

Where the land requires paſture, (which is generally the caſe), the rotations ſhould be,

1*mo*, In light land, or loam, firſt year, oats; ſecond year, turnip, thoroughly horſe and hand-hoed; third year, barley or wheat; fourth year, clover and graſs-ſeeds; and then paſture, as long as it is proper.

2*do*, In ſtrong land, firſt year, oats; ſecond year, beans, thoroughly horſe and hand-hoed; third year, barley or wheat; fourth year, clover and graſs-ſeeds, and then paſture, as long as it is proper.

In land which is in ſuch order as not to require paſture, (which is not a common caſe), the rotations ſhould be,

1*mo*, In light land or loam, firſt year, oats or wheat; ſecond year, turnip; third year, barley; fourth year, clover.

2*do*, In clay or ſtrong land, firſt year, wheat; ſecond year, beans; third year, oats or barley; fourth year, clover.

meadow, from 7s. 6d. to 15s.; paſture and hill-ground, from 6d. to 2s. 6d.

Rearing of cattle has, for theſe ten or twelve years paſt, been the moſt lucrative part of the farming buſineſs, great numbers having been bought by drovers for the Engliſh market. A couple of oxen ſells at from L. 10 to L. 20 Sterling. Sufficient attention, however, has not been paid to the breed. The breed of horſes has been much improved of late years, by means of itinerant ſtallions, and their value is generally double that of oxen. The number of black cattle in the pariſh may be eſtimated at 3400; the number of horſes at 700.

Produce.—About 20,000 * bolls of grain are raiſed annually in this pariſh, of which one-fifth may be barley. It is ſuppoſed, that 4000 bolls of meal and grain are in ordinary years exported. Oat-meal ſells at from 10s. to 16s. *per* boll of 8 ſtones Dutch. *Bear-meal* is of one-fourth leſs value. No leſs than 3000 buſhels of malt, according to the exciſe-books, are annually made, and as the *bear* of this country is inferior in weight to that of the more ſouthern counties, the price of malt is ſeldom more than 4s. above the price of oat-meal current at the time. Sixteen hogſheads of lintſeed, moſtly American, are ſown annually in this pariſh. This is reckoned ſufficient for 36 acres; and the produce, on an average, does not much exceed 1000 ſtones of *ſcutched* flax. The tenant of one of the lint-mills has, for ſeveral years paſt, received the greateſt premium for raiſing flax of any in the county. Hay is ſold at 6d. *per* ſtone, equal to 20 lb. Dutch. An acre of turnips, when carried off the field, fetches L. 4 Sterling. Potatoes are univerſally cultivated, and ſell at 5d. or 6d. *per* peck, of 2 ſtones Dutch. Cabbages are planted in the

* The whole multure-rent of the pariſh, multiplied by the average rate of multure, forms the ground-work of this calculation.

field as well as in the garden, and begin to be used as spring food for the cattle: they are valued at 1 s. *per* fall, or L. 8 *per* acre.

Thirlage, Multure, and Services.—Almost all the tenants are bound to grind their corn at a certain mill; a practice attended with many inconveniencies. Why should a miller be on a different footing from any other tradesman?

Multure is generally high in this parish *. In some mills it is converted, and paid with the rent; and should be so in every case. This, however, is not always practicable, as the rent and multure are often paid to different heritors; to remedy which would require a statute, abolishing thirlage, and empowering every landholder to redeem his estate from this burden. And a statute, which equally respects the good of the heritor and tenant, which would put a stop to an intricate and unreasonable practice obtruded on the present times by the use and wont of darker ages, and which would at once prevent law-suits, misunderstandings, and complaints, certainly merits attention. Services are not universally abolished.

Manufactures.—A great deal of flax is given out to spin in this parish for the Aberdeen and Peterhead manufactures. A considerable quantity of linen-yarn, spun from home-

† Multure most commonly is one-sixteenth of the whole grain raised, except what is used for seed, whether milled, sold, or malted. This, with the *bannocks*, *knaveships*, and other nameless mill-tolls, (which are sometimes one-fourth, sometimes one-eight and one-fourth of the multure, and at some mills almost twice as much as at others), forms a heavy burden on improving tenants; nearly thus:

$$\frac{1}{16} + \frac{1}{64} + \frac{1}{128} = \frac{11}{128} = 11 \text{ bolls in } 128.$$

Mr Ferguson, who is a very indulgent master to his tenants, has abolished the multures in all mills belonging to himself, and all customs and services in his property.

home-grown flax, is annually exported to the ſouthern boroughs. In and near the villages of Stewartfield and Deer, 3000 yards of linens, checks, and linſey-woolſeys, are every year made for ſale. The Aberdeen merchants have been long in the practice of giving out wool to be knitted into ſtockings. Spinning and knitting form the chief employment of the women; and a very conſiderable ſum of money is brought into the pariſh yearly from theſe ſources. A woman earns 2 s. or 2 s. 6 d. a-week.

In the year 1783, a bleachfield, and complete ſet of machinery, were erected by the late Mr Burnett of Denns, in the neighbourhood of his village of Stewartfield. At preſent, there are about 350 pieces of cloth, and about 600 ſpindles of yarn, bleached annually. The Honourable Board of Truſtees, a few years ago, gave L. 30 Sterling for erecting a drying-houſe.

Minerals.—This pariſh abounds with ſprings of water. On the farm of Mains of Anochie there are no fewer than 52. There are beſides a great many chalybeate ſprings in the pariſh, ſome of which are very ſtrongly impregnated, and have been uſeful in ſtomachic and gravelliſh complaints.

There are quarries of limeſtone of a very good quality, in different parts of the pariſh; ſome of which are reckoned inexhauſtible. About 13,000 bolls of lime are made annually, which ſells at 6 d. or 7 d. *per* boll of 90 Scots pints. 5000 or 6000 bolls of unburnt limeſtone are likewiſe ſold to farmers, who burn it for themſelves, at the rate of L. 1, 5 s. for the *hundred-boll-cairn*, which contains 475 cubical feet. From 60 to 70 hands are employed, but not conſtantly, in the different parts of the work, who are either paid by the piece, or receive 9 d. *per* day in ſummer, and 7 d. in winter.

In

In the ſouth-weſt ſide of the pariſh, there is abundance of that ſpecies of quartz called felt-ſpar, or rombic quartz, both above and below the ſurface of the ground. The late Mr Garden of Troup, to whom the eſtate belonged on which it is found in greateſt plenty, ſent a ſpecimen of it to a glaſshouſe in Newcaſtle, which was approved of, and a conſiderable quantity was in conſequence exported; but the expence of land-carriage, or ſome other cauſe, ſoon put a ſtop to this branch of commerce *.

Pieces of cryſtalized quartz are likewiſe met with occaſionally; the pureſt in the form of regular hexagonal priſms, pointed at the ends.

A dark blue, and a very white granite, are the ſtones moſt uſed in building.

Church, Poor, and School.—A commodious church, ſufficient to contain 1400 perſons, was built in the year 1789, for L. 700 Sterling. The ſtipend may be valued at L. 80 Sterling. The glebe meaſures 29½ acres nearly; the greateſt part of it good land. Mr Baſil Anderſon is the preſent incumbent. The crown is patron.

There is a Seceding meeting-houſe in the pariſh, and an Engliſh Epiſcopal chapel, where moſt of the gentry in the pariſh and neighbourhood attend. There are 29 men and 47 women preſently upon the poors liſt †, who receive from 6 s. to L. 2 each *per annum*, in ſmall ſums quarterly. The weekly

* Deer is 10½ miles diſtant from Peterhead, the neareſt ſea-port.

† In the year 1751, as appears by a minute of the ſeſſion, the number of poor on the liſt was 31, and the yearly collections did not then exceed L. 46, 16 s. Scots, of which L. 28, 4 s. went for clerk and officer's fees. Yet ſo much was this at that time accounted, that a ſcheme for maintaining the poor *in their own houſes*, by aſſeſſments on the heritors and tenants, was unanimouſly rejected by the ſeſſion, one principal reaſon being that it would reduce the ordinary collections to a *trifle*.

weekly collections amount to no leſs than L. 40 Sterling a-year; which, with what is collected about the time of the communion, the intereſt of a bill of L. 45 Sterling, *mort-cloth-money*, forfeited matrimonial pledges, *&c.* makes about L. 60, which is annually diſburſed by the kirk-ſeſſion. This ſum, together with what is diſtributed by the other congregations, is found adequate for the ordinary neceſſities of the poor; and when an extraordinary caſe occurs, intimation is made from the pulpit, and a collection made for the purpoſe.

The late Mr Burnett of Denns left, by deed of ſettlement, the lands of Andieſwells and Backhill, renting about L. 18 Sterling for the behoof of the indigent and infirm on his own eſtates in this pariſh; with this reſerve, that if ever poor-rates be eſtabliſhed here, the mortification ſhall ceaſe.

The emoluments of the ſchool and ſeſſion-clerkſhip amount to L. 30 *per annum*. The number of ſcholars, according to the ſeaſon, varies from 20 to 50, who pay quarterly 2 s. 6 d. for Latin, 2 s. for arithmetic, and 1 s. 6 d. for Engliſh. The fees for other branches of education are at the diſcretion of the teacher.

Villages and Population.—There are three villages in this pariſh, two of which have been built within theſe 25 years; Fetterangus, by Mr Ferguſon of Pitfour, and Stewartfield, by Mr Burnett of Denns; the village of Deer is upon the property of Mr Ruſſel of Moncoffer, and is of very long ſtanding. Owing to theſe, and the ſplitting of farms, the population of this pariſh has very much increaſed. In the year 1750, the number of communicants in the Eſtabliſhed Church was 718; for ſome years paſt, the number has been little ſhort of 1400. By a correct liſt, taken in the year

year 1788, previous to building the new church, there were found in the pariſh:

Perſons, - - -	3267
Males, - - -	1554
Females, - - -	1713
Of the Church of Scotland, -	2305
——— England, -	721
——— Rome, -	12
Antiburgher Seceders, - -	229
Heritors, - - -	11
Heritors reſiding conſtantly or occaſionally,	5
Village of Deer contained, -	166
——— Stewartfield, -	181
——— Fetterangus, - -	81
The number of baptiſms annually, upon an average of ſeven years laſt paſt, is -	75
The number of burials, - -	55
——— of marriages, -	23

The pariſhioners are in general, a decent, ſober, charitable people. Agriculture, the employment of the generality, is favourable to virtue; public worſhip, and the ordinances of religion, are attended with a laudable punctuality.

Diſeaſes, &c.—No diſeaſe has of late years raged here with greater mortality than a putrid ſore throat. It chiefly attacked children, ſometimes cutting off two, three, and four of a family. Inoculation for the ſmall-pox has been practiſed here with ſucceſs. Laſt year (1792) a ſurgeon of this place, humanely inoculated *gratis* above 100 children, moſtly of the lower claſs, of which only one died. Many people after all are very much averſe to inoculation. Conſumptive complaints are not unfrequent among the young; rheumatiſm afflicts thoſe of riper years.

It is an uncommon circumſtance, and ſhews that this place is by no means unfavourable to health, that there is juſt now in the village of Deer a family of five perſons, in which there has been neither birth, marriage, burial, nor bedrid perſon theſe 50 years! The mother of this family, who is the oldeſt perſon in the pariſh, thinks herſelf about her hundredth year. It is equally worthy of obſervation, that there died laſt winter a pariſhioner in the 84th year of his age, who was married two years before to his *ſeventh* lawful wife!

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—In the village of Deer, and in the neighbourhood, there are inns, where travellers of every deſcription can have good accommodation. The following licenſes were granted within the pariſh for the year ending the 10th October 1793, *viz.* 7 ale licenſes, 4 ſpirit licenſes, 3 wine licenſes, 1 tea licenſe, and 9 tobacco and ſnuff licenſes. Notwithſtanding the few tea licenſes taken out, that article is uſed more or leſs almoſt in every family. There are at preſent 26 retail-ſhops in the pariſh, 2 ſaddler's ſhops, 1 baker, beſides all the common tradeſmen and mechanics. The invoice of the merchants are from L. 50 to L. 500 Sterling a-year; and their annual profits on ſtock are about 10 *per cent.*

The peopling of the villages and ſmall farms, a great increaſe of handicraftſmen, and a demand for hands to the neighbouring manufactures, have occaſioned a temporary ſcarcity of ſervants in this place, and afforded them an opportunity, not only of raiſing their wages, but of demanding ſome other conceſſions which former times denied them. A man-ſervant receives about L. 6, a maid-ſervant from L. 2 to L. 3 *per annum.* Servants are all maintained in the family, and probably in no part of Scotland are they better uſed.

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There are 2 four-wheeled chaiſes and a hearſe in the pariſh.

About 900 acres have been planted in this pariſh, moſtly with Scotch firs at firſt, and afterwards filled up with a variety of other trees, of which Mr Ferguſon's plantations amount to about 650 acres. Pines and larches have in general thriven better than the Scotch fir. Larches, indeed, have ſucceeded on northerly expoſures, where every other kind of wood, which was tried, had failed. Of hard wood, beech, aſh, birch, oak, and plane trees, have come to conſiderable ſize. Hedge-rows to a great extent have in many places been planted round incloſures, along with ſtone and turf fences.

There is plenty of game in this pariſh, as grouſe, partridges, woodcocks, ſnipes, and hares; beſides wild pigeons, wild ducks, teals, herns, and occaſionally wild geeſe and ſwans; there are alſo hawks, owls, and great numbers of crows, (which are very deſtructive), and ſinging birds, as the thruſh, blackbird, linnet, goldfinch, *&c.* Foxes infeſt this place, together with badgers, otters, polecats, weaſels, *&c.*

The ſtreams here abound with ſalmon, and excellent trout of different kinds, and angling is a favourite diverſion.

Seed-time is from the middle of March to the end of April. Harveſt commences about the beginning of September, and commonly laſts ſix weeks. In the year 1782, the crop in this pariſh was ſuppoſed to fall ſhort about one half of the uſual produce. Twelve hundred bolls of *bear-meal* and peaſe were imported, moſtly by reſiding heritors. The tenants, however, got the better of this ſtroke by an extraordinary crop in 1784, which, with the riſe of cattle, brought this country to a pitch of proſperity, which it probably never before enjoyed.

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A canal betwixt this place and Peterhead is practicable on a very moderate expence. Should ſuch a meaſure ever be put in execution, and long leaſes with progreſſive riſes of rent be granted, the agriculture and manufactures of this diſtrict would be improved, and the population increaſed to a degree that is at preſent only conceivable.

Since the duty was taken off coals, the uſe of them increaſes here daily; and to thoſe who are more than a couple of miles diſtant from moſs, they prove as cheap fuel as peat, the procuring of which is a very tedious and expenſive work. The time that would be gained by the uſe of coals for agricultural improvement, is a matter of ſo great importance, that nothing but want of experience could hinder the farmer a moment from adopting them.

The great quantity of linen-yarn ſent out of the pariſh might be bought up at home, and would afford a good opening for a thread manufactory.

Antiquities.—The antiquities of this place are, druidical circles, ſingle monumental pillars, *cairns*, intrenchments, and an abbey.

There were, not many years ago, the remains of upwards of a dozen druidical circles in this pariſh. One of them, ſituated on the hill of Parkhouſe, not far from the village of Deer, is the moſt entire. The horizontal ſtone on the ſouth is 14 feet long, containing about 250 ſolid feet. At the diſtance of about 500 yards, on the north-eaſt ſide of the ſame hill, were, not long ago, the ruins of a ſmall village, ſuppoſed to have been the reſidence of the druids. A number of little yards were to be ſeen all around it; one of which ſtill retains a ſuperior verdure, and ſerves now to ſhow the ſpot where the village once ſtood. It conſiſted of 50 or 60 moſſy huts, from 6 to 12 feet ſquare, irregularly huddled together; hence it got the

name of *the bourachs*. The walls were built of ſtone and clay; the floors were paved with ſtones. A farmer in the neighbourhood, about 20 years ago, applied the ſtones, which were all of ſmall ſize, to erect incloſures. In removing the rubbiſh, he found a cylindrical ſtone, like a ſmall mill-ſtone; probably part of the *quearn*, or hand-mill, anciently uſed in this country for grinding corn. Two circular huts, containing ſome aſhes, ſeem to have been corn-kilns.

A *cairn* on the hill of Auchmacher was opened ſome years ago, and an urn was found in it, having its mouth adorned with a great number of ſmall jet black ſubſtances, circular and perforated.

At the foot of the hill of Sapling-brae, upon the north bank of the Ugie, ſtand the remains of the Abbey of Deer; which was built in the beginning of the 13th century, by William Cumming Earl of Buchan, who brought to it ſome Ciſtertian monks, from the abbey of Kinloſs in Moray, in the year 1218. The revenue of this abbey, as appears by the collector's books which are extant, was as follows: Money, L. 572 : 8 : 6; meal*, 65 chalders 7 bolls 1 firlot 3 pecks; wheat, 14 bolls; bear, 14 chalders 10 bolls. The lands which belonged to it were erected into

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* Eſtimating the victual at 12 s. 6 d. *per* boll, (the average of the fiars of the county of Aberdeen for 20 years laſt paſt), and valuing the money by the quantity of ſilver contained in a pounds Scots in the middle of the 16th century, the revenues of the Abbey would amount to nearly L. 1200 Sterling; but they in fact amount now to a much greater ſum. There is an old rental of the abbey lands in the cuſtody of Mr Ferguſon. To form an idea of their extent, it needs only be added, that the ſpiritual mens lands in the county of Aberdeen amounted to L. 321 : 16 : 8, of which the Abbey of Deer was rated at L. 20 of old extent, (equal to 10 freehold-qualifications), and that the temporal mens lands amounted to L. 2372 of old extent, or nearly four times the valuation of the lands poſſeſſed by the clergy.

a temporal lordſhip in 1587, in favour of Robert Keith, commendatary of Deer, ſon to William the 6th Earl Mariſchal. He left no male-iſſue, and accordingly his eſtate devolved on George Earl Mariſchal.

The abbey has been an extenſive building, but is now very much in ruins. The work has been very plain; the doors and windows coarſely arched. A ſemicircular pillar of red freeſtone, of the Doric order, has been lately diſcovered, cloſe by the wall, in the inſide of the north aiſle of the church. Its diameter is 3 feet 8 inches: only 5 feet of the ſhaft remain. Were more of the rubbiſh cleared away, it is probable ſimilar pillars might be found in other parts of the building.

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NUMBER XXIII.

PARISH OF LEGERWOOD.

(COUNTY OF BERWICK, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TEVIOTDALE, AND PRESBYTERY OF LAUDER),

From Materials communicated by Meſſrs MURRAY *and* MIRTLE *of this Pariſh.*

Situation, Extent, &c.

THE pariſh of Legerwood lies in the ſhire of Berwick, in the preſbytery of Lauder, in the Synod of Merſe and Teviotdale. It is nearly on the confine between Lauderdale and the Lammermuir-hills. Immediately around it are the pariſhes of Gordon, Earlſton, (or Elreſlington), Melroſe, Lauder, Weſtruther.—It is an area of about three miles in length by two and a half in breadth, or of nearly eight ſquare miles. It conſiſts of an aſſemblage of hills, gently riſing to a conſiderable height from the eaſtern bank of the Leader. Anciently, as we have reaſon to believe, theſe hills, and the intermediate glens, and all the circumjacent

jacent country, were covered thick with wood. The Britons, the Romans, the Anglo-Saxons, the Picts, the Scots, ſucceſſively poſſeſſors of theſe regions, conſumed by degrees the greater part of the woods, in the ravages of war, in opening paſſages through the country, in fuel and domeſtic uſes, in clearing the ground for cultivation. The marſhes and the ſtrata of peat-earth likewiſe evince, that much of the ſtanding timber was anciently ſuffered to grow to decay, to fall down, and to moulder away on the ground where it had been produced. Here, as in almoſt every other part of Scotland, the deſtruction of the native woods appears to have been ſucceeded on the hilly grounds by the growth of heath, on the lower and flat tracts by the ſtagnation of water, and by moſſes and water-plants. Such was the general aſpect of the lands of this pariſh, except on ſome narrow fields around the farm-ſteads, till it was happily changed by the cultivation of theſe laſt 30 or 40 years.

Soil.—On the lower declivities of the hills, and in the narrow vales dividing them, the ſoil is commonly a deep ſtratum of blackiſh mould, compoſed of ſand from comminuted fragments of the adjacent rocks, of the exuviæ and remains of decayed vegetables, and of oils and ſalts from the atmoſphere and from manures. On the cultivated uplands the ſtratum of the ſoil is more ſhallow, and is of a reddiſh colour, as containing a larger ſhare of ſtony matter from the rocks, and a ſmaller proportion of vegetable mould. The marſhes preſent deep ſtrata of peat-earth, of which the appearance and qualities are ſufficiently known. Its compoſition is evidently, where it is the moſt perfect, from the remains of decayed ligneous vegetables, with the occaſional intermixture of a portion of the remains of gramineous vegetables, and ſometimes of a little ſand. Sometimes,

times, by the efficacy of its ſeveral ingredients, vegetables of all ſorts, and even other ſubſtances, are long preſerved from decay in ſuch beds of peat-earth. Hence are the trunks, not only of oaks, but alſo of other trees, often found, unconſumed and freſh amidſt ſtrata of this earth; and hence the graſſes, which often appear in a ſtate of good preſervation, in peats of a light, ſpungy conſiſtency. The chemical conſtituents of pure peat-earth, are plainly, carbone or pure coal, oils of different ſorts, the reſinous extract of vegetables, and ſimple earth. On the dry heathy heights in this pariſh, the ſoil is commonly a thin layer of gravel, of peat-earth, or of both together.

Climate.—As to climate, the ſnows and froſts of winter act here ſometimes perhaps a little longer, and with ſomewhat more ſeverity, than in the more ſouthern, lower lying, and more richly cultivated lands of the Merſe; by the relative highneſs of its ſituation, too, this pariſh is not a little expoſed to the winds and rains of ſpring and autumn; and where the ſoil is thin and dry, its vegetation is liable to be parched by the droughts of ſummer. In the end of April 1795, the progreſs of the labours of ſpring was nearly eight days later here than on the low grounds of Mid-Lothian.

Diſeaſes.—The diſeaſes with which the inhabitants of this pariſh are liable to be afflicted are, the epidemical diſeaſes common through the whole kingdom, ſmall-pox, meaſles, *&c.* and thoſe other diſtempers which are uſually thought to be produced by exceſſive toil, and by unſeaſonable expoſure to a cold and humid atmoſphere, fever, cough, catarrh, rheumatiſm, conſumption, *&c.* They are mentioned in this place, becauſe there is believed to be always

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an intimate connection between the diſeaſes prevalent in any diſtrict, and the nature of its climate.

Wild Animals.—The wild animals of this pariſh are not now numerous. The fox ſometimes infeſts the ſheep-paſtures. Hares are plentiful. Thoſe little miſchievous quadrupeds, which prey upon poultry, have not yet been wholly exterminated. The houſes, barns, and barn-yards are not free from mice and rats. Adders, although rare, are ſometimes ſeen baſking among the heath, in the warm days of ſummer. The rivulets afford trouts. The tracts covered with heath, are frequented by muirfowls, and the corn-fields are haunted by partridges. During the long-continued and intenſe ſeverities of the winter 1794-5, many of theſe wild animals periſhed by cold and hunger, and many, in the extreme weakneſs to which they were reduced, became an eaſy prey to whoever choſe to purſue them. One gentleman had a number of hares taken alive, which he confined in an apartment, and fed plentifully with corn till the ſnow began to diſappear, then generouſly ſet them at liberty.

Number of Inhabitants.—The number of the inhabitants of this pariſh has increaſed, in proportion as its cultivation has been extended and improved. In the year 1755, the population of Legerwood was ſtated to Dr Webſter to amount to 398 ſouls. It is inhabited at preſent by 422 perſons in all, of both ſexes, and of every age and condition.

Heritors.—Among theſe ordinary inhabitants, is only one of the hereditary proprietors of the lands, Major Shillinglaw of Birkhillſide. The other heritors, ſix in number,

the Marquis of Tweeddale, —— Kerr, Eſq; of Morayſton, G. Innes, Eſq; of Stow, John Spottiſwood, Eſq; of Spottiſwood, Captain Orde of Eaſt Morayſton, are non-reſident.

Farmers.—The whole lands of the pariſh are divided into 17 farms, large or ſmall, which are occupied by as many different farmers. Theſe farmers, and the hinds, labourers and ſhepherds in their ſervice, with their reſpective families, compoſe almoſt the whole population.

Huſbandry.—Huſbandry is, then, almoſt the only mode of induſtry purſued here. Until within theſe laſt 50 years, the farmers of Legerwood were almoſt excluſively graziers and ſhepherds. What little tillage they carried on, for the purpoſe of raiſing bread-corn for the immediate ſupply of their own families, was upon a plan of agriculture which has ſince appeared to have been extremely unſkilful. The ground was broken up with a fallow; three ſucceſſive crops of oats were then raiſed upon it; after this, it was left for eight or nine years unploughed, that it might, in this period of ceſſation, recruit its exhauſted fertility.

At length, as a more enlightened and induſtrious agriculture began to advance, with its improvements from the ſouthern diſtricts of Berwickſhire, northwards, through the reſt of Scotland; the farmers of Legerwood were by degrees convinced, that even as graziers they ſhould be greatly gainers by a more extenſive, and a more ſkilfully conducted tillage. They adopted, one after another, that rotation of crops which ſtill prevails in the pariſh. The fallow is diſuſed; ley is for the two firſt years after it has been broken up, ſown with oats; on the third year it is manured with dung, and ſown with turnip-ſeed, or with peaſe, if dung be wanting for manure; yet a fourth year, the ſame field is ploughed,

ploughed, and the ſeed is now oats or barley, with graſs-ſeeds. Where the ſoil is light and thin, only three ſucceſſive crops are raiſed upon it; the ſecond of the crops of oats above mentioned being here omitted. After this rotation of crops, the field remains unploughed, till the graſſes, of which the ſeeds were mixed with the laſt ſeed of barley or oats, begin to be exterminated from the ſward, and the native heath and bog-graſſes to be unſeaſonably renewed.

The manures employed in theſe proceſſes of agriculture are ſolely dung, as is above mentioned, and lime, imported from Mid-Lothian. The dung from the ſtalls of the cattle is carefully accumulated in the farm-yard, and is, in the proper ſeaſon, conveyed thence to be ſpread upon the fields under tillage; or the cattle are at times folded in the fields, ſo as to manure the ground of the fold as they drop their dung, without farther care on the part of the owners, than that of removing the fold occaſionally from one ſituation to another. The diſtance of the lime kilns of Mid-Lothian would render lime an enormouſly expenſive article of manure to the farmers of Legerwood and its neighbourhood, were it not that grain and other things are uſually carried to Dalkeith market, in the carts which return loaded with lime. Fields covered deep with ſtrata of peat-earth are often quickened by the manure of lime to amazing fertility. Where the ſoil is of ſufficient depth, dung often produces an exceſſive luxuriancy of crop, in which the vegetation is waſted in ſtraw and empty ears.

The ſoil of many parts of theſe lands does not want ſtrength ſufficient for the production of wheat; but a previous fallow would generally be neceſſary, in conſequence of which there would be but one crop obtained in the courſe of two years; and no one crop of wheat would be equal in value to two crops of oats, barley, or turnips.

Potatoes are cultivated in conſiderable quantities in this pariſh, as over the reſt of Scotland; but do not enter invariably into the rotation, and are not in any peculiar degree a favourite article of crop.

Various ſorts of ſeed-oats have been tried here. Blainſley oats and red oats are the two ſpecies the moſt generally ſown. Red oats are found to ſucceed peculiarly well on the ſoil and in the climate of Legerwood; yielding, at an average, eight bolls in the hundred of larger increaſe than any other ſort of ſeed oats; thickening ſurpriſingly on the field as they grow up, from a thin ſowing; enduring the autumnal winds with comparatively little ſhaking of the ears; affording the beſt ſtraw; and giving, in meal, half a ſtone more from the boll of rough corn, than the Blainſley oats yield.

But turnips are, above all others, the favourite article of crop. They are precious, as green food, equally to ſheep and black cattle during winter; the manure and culture neceſſary to produce a crop of turnips, ſerve admirably to prepare the field for the cultivation and produce of the enſuing year; the waſte of the turnips that remains unconſumed by the cattle, forms alſo a rich manure to the ground on which they are ſcattered.

Horſes are the only beaſts of draught or burden employed in this pariſh. All the implements of huſbandry, carts, ploughs, harrows, *&c.* are of the moſt advantageous conſtruction known in the county. A double plough for turnips, the invention of Mr Paterſon, and formed to be drawn by one or two horſes, is alſo in uſe here, and is found to afford a very convenient abridgment of labour. Two threſhing-machines have been already erected in this pariſh, and there is a third about to be ſet up in the preſent ſummer (1795), at the firſt coſt of from L. 60 to L. 100 Sterling. But this expence is quickly repaid by the ſaving of labour, which is obtained from the uſe of the threſhing-

machine,

machine. Here are two corn-mills, which are in part ſupported by the reſtrictions of thirlage upon the lands of the pariſh. Happily, modes of mutual accommodation have been generally adopted between the farmers, the millers, and the landholders, which prevent theſe reſtrictions from being felt as intolerably grievous. The ploughmen in this pariſh are eminently dexterous and ſkilful. Three ſmiths and two joiners perform that work in wood and iron, which is requiſite to repair, from time to time, the implements of farm-labour, *&c.*

Yet, however ſkilful and induſtrious the agriculture of Legerwood, even a ſtranger might judge, at a firſt aſpect, that the feeding and fattening of ſheep and black cattle are the primary objects of the induſtry of the farmers of this pariſh.

Incloſures, Roads, &c.—No inconſiderable portions of the lands ſtill lie here and there in undrained marſhes, or are bleakly covered with their native barren heath. Here is a general want of incloſures; and thoſe which appear are chiefly turf-dikes; for indeed the climate, and the nibbling of the ſheep, are unfavourable to the thriving of hedges; and ſtones, for ſtone walls of any kind, are extremely ſcarce. Except in two or three inſtances, the pariſh bye-roads are in a very indifferent ſtate. The uplands and ſlopes are bare of wood, as in thoſe wild ſcenes into which the improvements and decorations of cultivation have not yet been admitted.

Animal Stock.—The horſes and other animals maintained on theſe farms are numerous. An hundred and ſix horſes, old and young, are kept for the ſaddle or the draught, and to ſupply the gradual waſte. The ſheep are no fewer than 3769. The black cattle are at preſent 559; and here are 59 ſwine.

The

The ſheep are of a breed from Northumberland, valuable alike for mutton and for wool. They are annually ſmeared with butter and tar, mingled in the proportion of four pounds of butter to one pint of tar. They, equally with the black cattle, feed in winter on hay and turnips; and in ſummer find their food on the open paſtures.

Groſs yearly Produce.—Upon theſe lands, with this ſtock, and by theſe modes of management and cultivation, the farmers of Legerwood furniſh a groſs annual produce of

6000 bolls of corn, worth	L. 4500	0	0
Wool, to the value of -	400	0	0
Sheep ſold, - -	1300	0	0
Black cattle, - -	1070	0	0
In their total value, -	L. 7270	0	0

Yearly Conſumption and Expence.—Out of this groſs value rents are to be paid to the amount of - - L. 1430 0 0

The poor are ſuſtained by an aſſeſſment of	30	0	0
The pariſh roads are repaired and extended by an aſſeſſment of - -	25	0	0
The expences of labour, of ſeed and manure, of the renewal of the animal ſtock, and of the maintenance of the families of the farmers, coſt annually - -	3785	0	0
	L. 5270	0	0
	2000	0	0
	L. 7270	0	0

Surplus of the yearly Produce.—Thus, of the groſs produce of the lands, there remains, after the deduction of theſe various *items* of annual expenditure, only the ſum of L. 2000 as a compenſation for the toil and ſkilful management of the farmers; as intereſt upon the value of their unperiſhing

unperiſhing ſtock; as a gradual repayment of that part of their ſtock which is ſunk in improvements upon the lands; and as clear profits upon the various bargains of ſale and purchaſe which they tranſact in the courſe of the year *.

This would appear no very conſiderable return, if we ſhould compare it with the value of the ſtock and labour by which it is produced; and again, with the profits which the ſame quantity of ſtock and labour would afford in ſeveral departments of trade and manufactures. Yet it exhibits, in no unpleaſing light, the advantages which attend the proſecution of agriculture, where the huſbandman is encouraged by a leaſe ſufficiently long, and reaſonable in its terms, to lay out his fortune freely in the cultivation of his farm, and to exert upon it all his induſtry and ingenuity. For moſt of the lands in this pariſh are poſſeſſed by the tenants upon long and eaſy leaſes, which have given great encouragement to bold and expenſive agricultural improvements. By this management, the landholders are perhaps ſtill more highly gainers than their tenants; becauſe, in the *firſt* place, rents that are eaſily made out of the lands, are punctually paid, without deficiency or litigation; and, in the *ſecond* place, becauſe the value of lands is much more rapidly augmented in theſe circumſtances, than in the caſe of ſhort leaſes and racked rents.

Hinds.—The circumſtances of the country, and the generoſity of the farmers, are ſuch as to reward the toil of the hinds, or labourers, in this pariſh, with a very liberal ſhare of the produce of the lands. Married are almoſt always preferred to unmarried male-ſervants, ſhepherds, or ploughmen. They are ſettled in ſnug cottages on the farms to which they for the time reſpectively belong. In grain, money,

* It is even probable, that many other ſums of unaſcertained expence muſt be deduced from this ſum of L. 2000 before the clear profit only ſhould remain.

money, and other articles for their ſupport or accommodation, they receive an yearly wage, varying with circumſtances from L. 15 to L. 20 Sterling. Beſides, each hind, poſſeſſing a cottage, is, at the ſame time, obliged to furniſh to his landlord and employer, a female-labourer, his wife, daughter, or ſervant, to work occaſionally throughout the year for the hire of 8 d. a-day.

Markets for Exports.—Of the grain, peaſe, wool, oxen and ſheep annually produced in this pariſh, the owners, after reſerving thoſe portions which are neceſſary for the various uſes of domeſtic conſumption, ſell the reſt to dealers, who reſort hither to purchaſe them, or export them for ſale to the markets of Dalkeith and Kelſo. The wool is commonly purchaſed by or for woollen-manufacturers from England, Galaſhiels, or Peterhead. Some ſheep of that age at which they are termed *hogs*, and a few black cattle, are occaſionally ſold into England. But, for grain of all ſorts, for oxen, cows, and ſheep, Dalkeith is the ordinary and principal market. Formerly here, and in the neighbourhood, were ſeveral dealers in meal, who purchaſing the corn from the farmers, manufactured it into meal for the markets of Kelſo, Lauder, and Dalkeith. At preſent, the two millers of the pariſh ſtill continue very properly to deal as meal-mongers; but moſt of the grain is exported unground.

Imports.—As to the requiſite imports of coals, lime, grocer's goods, draper's goods, hardware, ſtationer's goods, &c. theſe are all obtained from Kelſo, Lauder, Dalkeith, and Edinburgh. Kelſo affords the beſt and moſt convenient market for butchers meat. Lauder is the neareſt poſt-town, but too ſmall a place to ſerve to any conſiderable extent as a market. An attempt which is now made to find coals

coals on the Earl of Lauderdale's eſtate, near Blackſhiells, if ſucceſsful, will furniſh a conſiderably nearer market for this article of fuel, than thoſe coal-works immediately around Dalkeith and Edinburgh, from which it is at preſent procured.

Houſes.—Here are, at Corſbie, at Weſtmorayſton, and at Whitſlade, three ancient towers, monuments of that ſtate of the arts and manners of our anceſtors; in which, ſaving eccleſiaſtical edifices, there were no buildings in this country, but the fortreſs and the cottage; and in which, all the accommodation that was ſought in a houſe, was barely ſhelter and ſecurity. The preſent dwelling-houſes are diſperſed over the farms; only, on the farm of Legerwood (proper), is there ſuch an aſſemblage of houſes together, as compoſes a hamlet, or incipient village. The houſes of the farmers are commonly of two ſtories in height, handſomely and comfortably fitted up within, with a ſquare of office-houſes and a kitchen-garden contiguous, and having flocks of poultry feeding round them. The houſes of the hinds are dry, ſnug, and comfortable, affording to theſe honeſt labourers better domeſtic accommodation than the greateſt noblemen enjoyed five or ſix centuries ago, in the ſtrongeſt and moſt ſpacious of thoſe caſtles, the ruins of which we ſtill admire.

Manners, &c.—The inhabitants of this pariſh appear to be in general healthy, ſober, virtuous, induſtrious, and intelligent. Except about 40 Diſſenters, they are all content with the religious inſtruction to be received in their pariſh-church; the miniſter of which enjoys a living of about L. 90 Sterling in yearly value, with a manſe and a glebe. The children of the hinds are carefully ſent to the pariſh-ſchool, to learn reading, writing, arithmetic, and the

firſt principles of religion; the pariſh-ſchoolmaſter enjoying, beſide the wages, a ſalary of L. 11 : 6 : 8 Sterling. The farmers are enabled to give their children all the real advantages of what is uſually called *a liberal education*. Moſt of the articles of dreſs uſed here are imported, not manufactured within the pariſh. Here are two or three tailors, and one weaver.—The language of this pariſh having, for theſe laſt 1200 years, been chiefly Saxon, is at preſent, with that ſpoken through all Berwickſhire and in Northumberland, more ſubſtantially Saxon than the language of any other diſtrict in Great Britain. The names of places in this pariſh are all, or almoſt all, purely Saxon: As, for inſtance, *Legerwood*, ſignifying preciſely, *the hollow wood*, or the *hollow place in the wood*, and accurately expreſſive of the ſituation of the farm which bears the name, and communicates it to the pariſh: *Corſbie*, quaſi *Caer-bee*, *the Caſtle*, a name compounded from a Britiſh and a Saxon word, having both the ſame ſignification, ſo that there was probably a Roman ſtation here, before the Anglo-Saxons came into the iſland: *Boon*, *the Upper Farm*, *or Dwelling*, *&c.*

NUM-

NUMBER XXIV.

PARISH OF TEMPLE,

(COUNTY OF MID-LOTHIAN, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEEDDALE, PRESBYTERY OF DALKEITH).

By the Rev. Mr JAMES GOLDIE, *Miniſter.*

Origin of the Name.

THERE was an eſtabliſhment for the Templars, or Red Friars, made in this place by King David I. of Scotland; hence the name of the pariſh.

Situation.—Temple lies 11 Engliſh miles ſouth from Edinburgh. That part of the pariſh which is ſituated in the immediate vicinity of the church, is bounded on the S. and S. W. by the county of Tweeddale; on the W. by the pariſh of Pennycuik; on the N. W. and N. by the pariſh of Primroſe; on the N. E. and E. by the pariſh of Borthwick; and on the S. E. by that of Heriot. Its greateſt length may be about 9 miles, and its greateſt breadth 5. But beſides this, there is another part of the pariſh, lying

four Engliſh miles to the eaſtward, quite detached by a part of the pariſh of Borthwick, and inſulated by the pariſhes of Borthwick and Newbattle. It conſiſts of about 300 acres of clay ſoil. I do not know how it became annexed to this pariſh.

Climate.—From the ſituation the air is cold; the froſt ſets in early in the ſeaſon, and continues late in the ſpring; at other times the air is damp, occaſioned by the hills attracting the ſhowers, and the moſs retaining the moiſture. So much is this the caſe, that the pariſh never ſuffers from want of rain, yet the people are in general healthy.

Soils.—The arable part of the infield land conſiſts of light ſoil, chiefly dry and ſharp, upon a gravel bottom; the other parts of the pariſh conſiſt of land of the ſame qualities; of moſſy land of from three inches to two feet deep of moſs, chiefly wet, upon a clay or gravel bottom; and of marſhy land, the ſoil of which is a mixture of clay and ſand, upon a bottom of moſs, or clay, or gravel.

Population and Price of Labour.—The number of ſouls, from a liſt taken in 1793, was 593; ſince that time it has diminiſhed, from the coal not being wrought now upon the lands of Stobs, the property of James Dewar, Eſq; of Vogrie; but there is a proſpect of the number being again filled up, from a manufacture being about to be eſtabliſhed in the ſame place. Like other pariſhes in ſimilar ſituations, the number of inhabitants has greatly decreaſed within 40 years. From a liſt of the examinable perſons, or of thoſe upwards of eight years of age, taken in the year 1772, their number amounted to 604; and in the year 1755, according to Dr Webſter's ſtatement, their number amounted to 905.

An average of baptiſms, marriages, and funerals, taken for 10 years immediately preceding the year 1733, from the ſeſſion-records. The average of

Baptiſms,	in a year,	was	31½
Marriages,	—	—	6½
Funerals,	—	—	33½

Preceding the year 1794, the average for 10 years of

Baptiſms,	in a year,	was	15½
Marriages,	—	—	1½
Funerals,	—	—	16

From this, the decreaſe of the population is evident. Of the preſent inhabitants there is but a ſmall proportion Seceders. The people in general are quiet, and no diſturbers of the public peace. They are moſtly employed in agriculture and paſturage. The ſhepherds, inſtead of wages, are allowed to paſture a certain number of ſheep, along with their maſters flock. They live comfortably in their way, and not unfrequently make a little money, with which they are ſupported in the decline of life, by employing it either in buying oats, which, when made into meal, they ſell, or by uſing it in ſome other kind of ſmall traffick. The wages of a hind or cottager may amount to (all his advantages conſidered) from L. 10 to L. 16. His wife in harveſt works for the cottage they live in; and all his family capable of work, are obliged to labour, on being paid, for the farmer, when he needs them. The wages of a man-ſervant, who eats in his maſter's houſe, is from L. 5 to L. 7 in the year; of a day-labourer, from 1 s. to 1 s. 2 d. *per* day; of women, that work at hay or turnip, 6 d. *per* day; of tradeſmen, from 1 s. 6 d. to 2 s. *per* day. Women ſervants get from L. 1, 5 s. to L. 2 in the half year; they have

have more wages in ſummer than in winter, from the demand for ewe-milkers, and there being more employment for them in the field at that ſeaſon.

Landed Property and Farming.—The property of this pariſh is chiefly veſted in Dundas of Arniſton and Hepburn of Clerkington, the valued rent of the two remaining heritors amounting only to L. 439 : 5 : 6 Scots. The valued rent of the whole pariſh is L. 4399, 10 s. Scots.

A good deal has been done towards incloſing the ground, and in improving the country by plantations of trees. The proprietors have alſo been at conſiderable pains and expence to ſecond the natural tendency of the ſoil to paſturage, and have, with this view, laid out much of their beſt land in graſs-fields, cultivated in a ſuperior ſtyle, and which now make great returns. But till of late, the farmers have ſhown no ſpirit for improvement. Six years ago, none of them but one raiſed turnip, and ten years ago none of them but one raiſed clover and rye-graſs. Since theſe periods, however, conſiderable progreſs has been made, as will appear by the ſubjoined liſt of cattle fed upon turnip. Much of the land is well adapted to the culture of turnips and potatoes, and for raiſing crops of hay, and theſe modes of cultivation will probably become more extenſive and perfect, when the roads through the pariſh ſhall be made good and eaſy for conveying the produce of the ſoil to market. The other crops raiſed are barley, and bear, oats and peaſe. The barley is raiſed in the lower part of the pariſh, and ſold to brewers and diſtillers at the fiars of the county. The bear is raiſed in the higher part, and ſold to the ſame perſons at the 2d or 3d fiars. The oats ſown here are the common oats of the country, known by the name of Blanſlie oats, and red oats, that anſwer well in our cold

cold climate upon ſtrong land only *. A few Carnwath oats are alſo ſown here, they are about 10 days earlier than the common oats, and produce a greater quantity both of oats and ſtraw upon bad land than either of the other kinds, but are long in the body, and huſky. When ſown upon good land, they produce an excellent crop of good grain. The oats are either ſold in the Dalkeith market, the beſt grain market in Scotland, or made into meal for the uſe of the farmer's family. The peaſe ſown are either the late ſeed, the Peebles and Magbiehill, or Montgomery peaſe. The laſt of theſe is the earlieſt. The country is indebted for them to the late Mr Montgomery of Magbiehill; they are chiefly made into meal, and uſed in the ſame way. The horſes are improved in ſize and ſtrength; the cattle are larger and better formed than formerly; a cow feeds to from 24 to 34 ſtones, an ox to from 30 to 46. The breed of ſheep is the ſame which has long prevailed in the ſouthern diſtricts of Scotland, *viz.* the black-faced and grey-faced coarſe-woolled ſheep. They are much better boned, from fewer being kept upon the ſame ground than formerly, and weigh, when fed, from 10 lb. to 16 lb. a-quarter. As many ſheep are reared in the pariſh, they are diſpoſed of in the following manner: Some are ſold when lambs to the butcher; others when hogs, or of one year old; others as fat ewes; other ewes, when lean, at Martinmas, for feeding or keeping; and a few are ſold young wedders, or three years old.

The

* The red oats have been long in this country, and were formerly known by the name of barley-corn. They were brought from Linton, Peebleſhire, by Mr Dawſon, farmer at Frogden, Roxburghſhire, and meliorated, by being ſown upon his well-cultivated land. They were introduced lately into this country under the title of red oats.

The ſheep, cattle, and horſes, are nearly as follow:

Stock ſheep, -	6560	Stock of cattle,	331
Sheep grazed and fatted,	1700	Cattle grazed,	375
Sheep fed on turnip,	270	Cattle fed on turnip,	55
Total of ſheep, -	8530	Total of cattle,	761

Stock of horſes, - - -	92
Horſes grazed, - - -	27
Total of horſes, - - -	119

Poor.—The poor are ſupported from the weekly collections at the church-door, from money ariſing from letting out mortcloths, from a perquiſite upon proclamations for marriage, and from the intereſt and capital of a ſum of L. 126 that had been collected when the heritors were reſident in the pariſh. That ſum is faſt diminiſhing, there being now no reſident heritors, but the ſmalleſt, who is a Seceder. Subjoined is a liſt of the receipts and diſburſements in the years 1753 and 1793:

Receipts in 1753, - -	L. 26	2	$2\frac{1}{2}$
Diſburſements ditto, -	24	16	$8\frac{1}{4}$
Receipts in 1793, - -	14	13	$5\frac{1}{4}$
Diſburſements ditto, -	24	2	11

The difference between the receipts and diſburſements in 1793 was made up by money taken from the capital in the preceding year. There have been no begging poor in the pariſh for upwards of 20 years.

Eccleſiaſtical Eſtabliſhment.—The eccleſiaſtical eſtabliſhment of this pariſh conſiſted originally of three chapels, one at Temple, one at Clerkington, and one at Morphet. The patronage

patronage of the firſt belonged to lands the property of Dundas of Arniſton, and that of the other two to lands the property of Hepburn of Clerkington. From the union of theſe chapels aroſe, at an early period, the preſent pariſh of Temple; and the right of preſentation to it has followed that of the original eſtabliſhment, Mr Dundas having one *vice* of it, and Mr Hepburn two. The ſtipend is paid partly in money and partly in grain, and amounts to L. 82, 16 s. 8 d. at the legal rate of converting grain by the Court of Teinds. The glebe is ſmall, and the value of it to the miniſter is ſtill farther diminiſhed, by the arable part of it being at a diſtance from the manſe, and unincloſed. The manſe is an old houſe, and has lately undergone a partial repair. The church is an old Gothic building, is ill ſeated, and very cold in winter, from having bad doors, and no cieling.

Manufactures.—There has as yet been no manufacture carried on in the pariſh; but lately a company from England have begun to build a mill for making gun-powder. This is the firſt erection of the kind in Scotland.

NUMBER XXV.

PARISH OF MORBATTLE,

(COUNTY OF ROXBURGH, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TEVIOTDALE, PRESBYTERY OF KELSO).

By a Lover of uſeful Enquiries.

Situation, &c.

MANY places, on both ſides the borders of Scotland and England, received their preſent names from warlike exploits that took place during the unhappy conteſt, reſpecting the independence of Scotland, in which the two nations were ſo long engaged. It is probable, that the name *Morbattle* was given to this pariſh at that period, although the particular circumſtance that gave riſe to it is now, perhaps, unknown. The pariſh is bounded on the N. by Linton; on the E. by Yetholm; on the S. by Hounam; and on the W. by Eckford.

Rivers.—The principal rivers or waters in the pariſh are *Bowmont* and *Kale*, in both of which the ſalmon and trout are

are to be found. The ſalmon in theſe, and all the other waters in this diſtrict of the county, are not now nearly ſo plenty as formerly; owing, it is believed, to the cruives, and other machineries placed in the Tweed, a little above Berwick, by which the fiſh, in their paſſage up the river, are intercepted and killed.

Village.—The only village in the pariſh is Morbattle. The ground upon which it is built was, not very many years ago, feued out by the Marquis of Tweeddale, for the terms of nineteen times nineteen years, at the rate of L. 5 *per* acre Engliſh. The houſes, which are moſtly of one ſtory high, and covered with thatch, are built and kept in repair by the feuers. About 380 acres, adjoining to the village, were, till of late, occupied in two farms, for which was paid L. 64 of rent annually. Theſe farms, at the expiration of the leaſes, were parcelled out into ſmall portions, as might beſt ſuit the conveniency of the feuers in the village. They are now ſubdivided into about 26 ſmall pendicles or paffles, for which is paid of yearly rent L. 230. The greateſt ſubdiviſion pays only L. 22, 10 s. Sterling. The riſe of the rent of this land, which was almoſt altogether *outfield* and hilly, is, perhaps, more than that of any other part of the pariſh. The ground, inſtead of being rendered worſe by the ſmall occupiers, is much improved. It receives a conſiderable quantity of manure, and care is taken to cultivate every inch of it, in the beſt manner poſſible. Being thus improved, it is extremely ſerviceable in helping to ſupport many induſtrious families. This village, when the accumulation of ſmall into large farms took place in the neighbourhood, ſeaſonably afforded a comfortable aſylum to ſeveral farmers and cottagers, who were forced to abandon the abodes of their forefathers. The inhabitants, who amount to about 200 ſouls, are active and in-

duſtrious. Some of them find employment in working their horſes and carts, in agricultural operations; frequently in carrying lime and coals to the farmers in the vicinity; and alſo in cultivating the ſmall pieces of land they have in leaſe, without which they could not ſupport their horſes and cows. Some of the villagers are day-labourers, whilſt others are occupied at their ſeveral trades and handicrafts, in the cuſtomary work of the country. The leiſure hours of theſe tradeſmen are laudably filled up in managing their ſmall paſſles, and kail-yards, in which exerciſes they find a more profitable and healthful amuſement, than they could poſſibly do in frequenting alehouſes or barbarous diverſions, a practice which too much prevails with many mechanics in ſome of the great manufacturing diſtricts of Britain. The women are employed chiefly in ſpinning linen yarn, and managing their ſmall dairies, principally in making butter and cheeſe, ſome little of which is uſually carried to market.

The inhabitants, by theſe means, are happily removed from the direful ſtate of abſolute ſervitude, and from totally depending on the caprice of others. They have a ſpur to activity and induſtry, from a view of rendering better their circumſtances in life. This excitement, which is one of the ſtrongeſt principles of human action and felicity, would be ſtill ſtronger, had they an opportunity of getting in leaſe more land added to what they already poſſeſs, in proportion as they were able to ſtock and manage it, or were ſmall farms to be got in the neighbourhood. Miſerable, indeed, muſt that claſs of men be, who are deprived of theſe, or ſimilar excitements to action. The ſtate and manners of ſociety ſhould every where be ſo formed, that people in the loweſt ſtations of life may have a foundation on which to build their hopes of advancing their circumſtances by frugality and induſtry. Such a view of their condition has a great

great tendency to call forth every active power of the human nature; to make them combat, with firmneſs, every oppoſition that may occur, and, with reſolution to overcome the difficulties that lie in the way. Animated with ſuch a proſpect, they will early acquire habits of induſtry: A manly ſpirit will ſtimulate the whole of their conduct, and naturally lead them to abhor every unworthy purſuit: Succeſs, in a greater or leſs degree, will crown their laudable endeavours. A conduct and a reſult quite the reverſe muſt infallibly characterize thoſe unhappy creatures, whoſe lot in ſociety precludes them the hopes of ever raiſing their condition above that of mean ſervitude. The depreſſion of all that is manly in the ſoul; a rooted envy at the proſperity of others, which they can never attain; a chilling proſpect of nothing but inſignificancy, obſcurity and poverty to themſelves and their offſpring; and a long train of other evils, are the natural conſequences of ſuch a forlorn ſituation. Perſons thus depreſſed are unavoidably capable, and frequently willing to engage in the moſt iniquitous, baſe, and cruel deſigns. To prevent any claſs of men from falling into ſo deplorable a condition, every precaution ſhould be taken by the community. This ought eſpecially to be done with reſpect to the department of agriculture. Encouragement ſhould be given to the meaneſt ſervant of riſing in the line of his buſineſs till he become a maſter. And are there not many knowing and wealthy farmers in Britain, who can remember the time when they were employed in the loweſt ſervice of huſbandry? This encouragement is indeed held out to mechanics, and to thoſe engaged in moſt other purſuits of life; but this can hardly be ſaid to be, at preſent, the caſe with reſpect to farming, in thoſe diſtricts, where large farms are univerſally adopted. It is not in the nature of things, eſpecially now when the neceſſaries of life have riſen to ſo high a price,

price, that a common ſervant can, by his whole income of about L. 15 a year, maintain his family, and at the ſame time acquire as much money as is requiſite to ſtock a large farm. He and his offspring, if they do not change their profeſſion, muſt remain for ever in a ſtate of ſervitude, poor, helpleſs, and deſpiſed. It is happily otherwiſe in thoſe places, where there is a proper mixture of great and ſmall farms. It frequently happens that a ſervant, by a few years induſtry and economy, with a little aſſiſtance from a friend, accumulates a ſum that enables him to commence farmer on a ſmall ſcale. In this new, but more advanced ſituation, he exerts himſelf by every lawful means in his power; he is ſpurred on by a laudable emulation; and, at the expiration of his leaſe, is generally able to quit the ſmall and enter on a larger farm. Taught by this gradual progreſs through the various ſtages of his profeſſion, he directs with ſkill, he rules with moderation, and he manages with economy. Were the inhabitants, in ſome places of the iſland, favoured with ſuch opportunities of riſing in the line of their buſineſs, it is highly probable that the landed intereſt would find their profit in diminiſhing the extent of ſome of their farms. That it was not alone the accumulation of ſmall into great farms that bettered the condition of ſome diſtricts, but in a great meaſure the happy change that took place in the mode of huſbandry and farming, is a conjecture that may ſafely be ventured. The time is, perhaps, at no great diſtance, when proprietors of eſtates will find it as much their intereſt to diminiſh, at leaſt, ſome of their farms, as they formerly imagined they did by enlarging them.

Heritors.—The landed property of Morbattle is ſubdivided amongſt twelve heritors; but his Grace the Duke of

of Roxburgh has by far the largeſt portion. None of the heritors but one reſide on their property in this place.

Population.—As the increaſe of the village is ſuppoſed to be equal to the depopulation of the country part of the pariſh, when ſmall farms were annihilated, the preſent number of inhabitants is ſuppoſed to be nearly the ſame as in the return made to Dr Webſter in 1755, which was then 789.

Agriculture.—Little more than one fourth part of the pariſh is at preſent under culture. It is certain, however, from the traces of the plough which yet remain on the higher grounds, that much more of this and the adjacent country was anciently under tillage than at preſent. It is generally believed, that, during the long and cruel conteſt between the two kingdoms, a great portion of the lands on the borders were kept under white crops, as it was not ſo eaſy for the plundering parties, in theſe unhappy times, to carry off crops of grain, as it was, had the land been in paſture, to drive away the cattle. The drill turnip huſbandry is carried on here with great ſpirit, and is conſidered as one of the chief improvements of agriculture in this country. Large fields of turnips are purchaſed by the graziers for feeding off with ſheep. The very ſmall quantity of lint that is produced in the pariſh is moſtly dreſſed or ſcutched by the hand at the owner's houſes.

Manufactures.—Artiſans and tradeſmen are far from being numerous in the pariſh, there being no more than are neceſſary to ſupply the inhabitants in cuſtomary work, in which are employed 4 weavers, 6 wrights and joiners, 2 ſmiths, 3 maſons, 5 tailors, 1 ſhoemaker. Tailors continue the practice of working in their employers houſes, and

and receive 8 d. a-day, and their victuals. Wrights have 1 s. a-day and victuals, or 1 s. 6 d. without them. A ſmall quantity of linen-yarn is ſpun, ſome of it on the double-handed wheel. This inſtrument was introduced from Fife-ſhire into this pariſh and neighbourhood, about 15 years ago, by Mrs Morriſon, wife of the Reverend David Morriſon, miniſter in the Seceding meeting-houſe at Morbattle. But little more yarn is ſpun than what is neceſſary for private uſe. The women in this part of the country being accuſtomed to work much in the agricultural operations of the field, are little diſpoſed for ſedentary employments, and therefore, in general, ſit down to the ſpinning wheel with great reluctance. From the preſent diſpoſition and habits, both of males and females in this place, the introduction of manufactures among them would not, it is probable, meet with great ſucceſs.

Church.—The preſent church was built in 1757, and is a commodious place of worſhip. The ſtipend, including the manſe and glebe, is worth about L. 160. The Duke of Roxburgh is patron. The Reverend James Richardſon fills at preſent the charge. A meeting-houſe, adhering to the Antiburgher Seceders, was, a conſiderable number of years ago, erected in the village of Morbattle; where a clergyman of that perſuaſion regularly officiates, to a pretty numerous congregation collected from all the neighbourhood.

School.—The ſalary annexed to the parochial ſchool is 100 merks Scots, with a free houſe and kail-yard. The ſchool-wages are 1 s. 6 d. for teaching the Engliſh language; 2 s. for writing, and 2 s. 6 d. for arithmetic and Latin. The number of ſcholars is, at an average, about 25. His perquiſites for the ſeſſion-clerkſhip are 4 d. for every baptiſm

tiſm that he enrols in the parochial records, and 2 s. 6 d. for every proclamation of marriage, with a trifle for writing teſtimonials, or certificates for character. His income receives an addition of L. 3 or L. 4 a-year, for collecting the poor-rates in the pariſh. But this and the ſeſſion-clerkſhip do not belong to him as ſchoolmaſter; they are given him at the option of the heritors, miniſter, and ſeſſion. The whole income, however, is too ſmall for enabling a teacher of youth to live in a manner ſuitable to the ſtation of ſo public a character. The ſeſſion-records of this pariſh commence in 1697. No regiſter of burials is kept.

Poor.—About 16 indigent perſons are commonly on the ſeſſion-roll. Their principal ſource of ſupport is L. 1600, 3 s. 8 d. Sterling, that was, a good many years ago, bequeathed to this pariſh by Mr John More, a native of Morbattle, who made his fortune in the Eaſt Indies, where he died. The money was left to the management of the heritors and kirk-ſeſſion of Morbattle, and bequeathed principally for the ſupport of orphans and infirm old people. It is lent out for intereſt on landed ſecurity. Partly owing to this fund, the number of poor is probably greater than otherwiſe it would be, as people from the neighbouring pariſhes reſort here, from a motive of being ſupported in old age, A ſmall aſſeſſment on the pariſh is ſometimes found to be neceſſary. The collections at the kirk, amounting to a very ſmall ſum, is commonly diſtributed by the ſeſſion to occaſional poor.

Diſeaſes.—This part of the country is not remarkable for any uncommon or peculiar diſeaſe. The inhabitants are generally healthy and ſtrong, and many of them live to a good old age. The ſmall-pox makes ſometimes great havock among the children; and inoculation, the beſt remedy

yet known for that loathſome diſeaſe, is not much practiſed.

Antiquities.—The remains of ſeveral encampments, and rows of ſtones, called *tryſt-ſtanes*, are antiquities, probably of the moſt ancient date in the pariſh. The tryſt-ſtanes are commonly on high ground. They are placed perpendicularly in rows, not unfrequently in a circular direction. It is ſaid, as alſo the name imports, that, in times of hoſtilities, they marked the places of reſort for the borderers, when they were aſſembling for any expedition of importance. The ruins of Whitton-caſtle and Corbet-houſe are the only remains of large buildings or places of ſtrength in the pariſh.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The roads in the pariſh, of which none are turnpike, are very far from being good, and are often almoſt impaſſable. Two public houſes (ſmall ones) in the village ſerve the inhabitants and paſſengers with refreſhment. Formerly there were four mills in the pariſh; now two are found to be ſufficient to grind all the corn that is needed by the inhabitants. About 20 acres may contain all the growing wood in the pariſh, and theſe were but lately planted. The chief dependence for fuel is on coal brought from the Engliſh border, and which ſells at a high price. There are a few peat-moſſes in the pariſh, but the people, in general, are ſo much occupied in the field, during ſummer, that the caſting and preparing of peats are greatly neglected.

NUMBER XXVI.

PARISH OF WEMYSS,

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF FIFE, PRESBYTERY OF KIRKCALDY).

By the Rev. Mr GEORGE GIB, *Miniſter.*

Name, Extent, and Surface.

THE name of the pariſh is ſaid to be Gaelic, and ſignifies a *Cave*, in alluſion to the number of natural caves on the ſea-ſhore, near the village of Eaſter Wemyſs. Hence, too, all that tract of ground between the lower part of the water of Ore and the ſea, was, in old times, called Wemyſſhire. The pariſh is diſtant from the Preſbytery-ſeat about three miles. Its greateſt length, which is from S. W. to N. E. will not exceed 6 miles, nor its greateſt breadth 1½. It is bounded by the pariſh of Dyſart on the W.; by Markinch on the N. and E.; the water of Leven ſeparates it from a ſmall part of the pariſh of Scoonie on the N. E.; and the frith of Forth waſhes it on the S. The ground, which is in ſome places high along the ſhore, af-

terwards riſes gently to the N. The ſhore, from high water mark outward, is lined with rocks, which are not high, being moſtly covered at high water.

Climate and Diſeaſes.—Like all the S. and E. ſhore of Fife, being much expoſed to the E. winds in the ſpring months, it is unfavourable to pulmonic complaints, but in other reſpects, the climate cannot be ſaid to be unhealthy. Some of the fiſhermen are afflicted with calculous concretions: and the reaſon which they generally aſſign for this, is their being ſo much expoſed to cold with wet feet. Many children die of the ſmall-pox in the natural way. In the village of Buckhaven upwards of 30 were lately cut off. It is to be hoped, however, that the prejudice againſt inoculation will not in future be ſo general as it has been. Many perſons live to upwards of 80; and within theſe two years, 3 perſons have died above 90.

Villages.—Weſter Wemyſs is a burgh of barony, with 2 bailies, a treaſurer, and council. There are other 3 villages on the coaſt, *viz.* Eaſter Wemyſs, Buckhaven, and Methil. There are 2 villages in the country called E. and W. Coaltowns.

Soil and Agriculture.—The ſoil varies both in the country and on the coaſt. In ſome places it is fine black loam; in others light and brown, ſometimes approaching to ſand; and a ſmall part, particularly in the N. W. corner, is cold and wet. It is all arable, and, with a few acres excepted, produces good crops of wheat, bear, beans, peaſe, oats, potatoes, and turnip. The farmers are, in general, active and induſtrious, and attentive to every improvement in agriculture. In farms near the villages, land is let to trades people for planting potatoes, who muſt all afford manure, hand-

hand-hoe their potatoes, and pay at the rate of L. 3 the acre. By this means the farmer procures a quantity of good manure, has his ground well cleaned, and an excellent crop of wheat or bear the following year. The plough uſed is Small's, which is drawn by two horſes, and held and managed by one man. There are no ſheep, but a few kept by Colonel Wemyſs for family-uſe, and they are of a very fine kind. There are 16 farms, which are rented from L. 25 to upwards of L. 400 a-year.

A conſiderable quantity of land near the coaſt is rented by land-labourers, who reſide in the villages, and though, with many of them, farming is only a ſecondary object, yet the land in general is well laboured, and produces good crops. Almoſt all ſow ſome turnip for their cows in winter, and feed their horſes with potatoes, which are generally boiled and mixed up with light corn. The ſea-weed, or ware, which is driven in by the ſea all along the ſhore, makes excellent manure when ſpread immediately after it is carried to the land. This land, which is uſually called the Acre-land, lets from L. 1, 10 s. to L. 2, 15 s. the acre.

Plantations.—There is but little old wood, excepting ſome at the caſtle of Wemyſs. The late proprietor, the Hon. James Wemyſs, Eſq; incloſed a great part of the pariſh; ſome of it with ſtone and lime, and other parts with ditches and hedge, and planted many thouſands of trees; and his ſon, the preſent proprietor, is going on with the ſame plan. He has incloſed much, and for theſe 6 years paſt has planted, of various kinds, upwards of 200,000 trees every year, in different places. All the plantations are in a very thriving way, and in a few years will both warm and greatly beautify the grounds.

Fiſhing

Fiſhing and Buckhaven.—From the ſcarcity of haddocks for ſome years, ſeveral of the fiſhermen have entered into the navy, or on board merchant-ſhips, and others have become day-labourers in country work. Formerly there were in Eaſter Wemyſs 5 boats, with 5 men each, and one in Weſter Wemyſs, with 5 men, and now there is only one boat in Eaſter Wemyſs, and the crew conſiſt of old men. In Buckhaven, the fiſhing is ſtill continued with little alteration in the number of fiſhermen; and though fiſh are much ſcarcer than formerly, yet the fiſhermen are in ſome meaſure compenſated by the high price, and certain market for thoſe they catch. The fiſh uſually caught are haddock, cod, turbot, ſkate, whitings, ſoles, flounders, makarel and herring. A conſiderable quantity of lobſters and crabs, or partons, (and ſometimes a few cray or craw-fiſh) are taken, with trap-creels let down into the ſea upon the rocks near the ſhore. A worthy fiſherman aſſured me, that he has known, about 40 years ago, 25,000 haddocks caught by the fiſhermen of Buckhaven in one day, which were ſold from 6 d. to 10 d. the 100; now more is ſometimes given for a ſingle haddock. At preſent, moſt of the fiſh caught here are ſent to the Edinburgh market, and the reſt are ſold in this neighbourhood by women, who carry them in creels on their backs. When fiſhing was plenty, few of the fiſh caught in this pariſh were ſent to Edinburgh, becauſe then the fiſhermen in the Eaſt of Fife carried their fiſh to that market, and thoſe being taken in deeper water, and conſequently larger, were always preferred. At that time moſt of the fiſh caught here were ſold in the neighbouring burghs, or bought up by men who carried them in creels on horſes to a conſiderable diſtance, where they found a good market. This laſt gave employment to many in the pariſh; and a few years ago, ſome of them had got neat carts fitted up for the purpoſe; but of late, they have been

been obliged, in a great meaſure, to give this up, both from the ſcarcity and high price of fiſh. Twelve boats, with 6 men in each, uſed in the month of Auguſt, to go from this pariſh to the herring-fiſhing off Dunbar; but the encouragement for ſome years paſt was ſo ſmall, that they had entirely abandoned it. There is now, however, a proſpect of this fiſhing being revived by the appearance of herring in the Bay of Inverkeithing; if there is encouragement, the fiſhermen here will not fail to improve it.

The fiſhermen in Buckhaven generally marry when young, and all of them marry fiſhermens daughters of the ſame village. I am particularly indebted to a very ingenious and intelligent General for a letter written by my late amiable and worthy predeceſſor, the Rev. Dr Harry Spens *, when miniſter of this pariſh, (dated Wemyſs, 20th Auguſt 1778), from which the following particulars reſpecting the original inhabitants of Buckhaven, *&c.* are tranſcribed:

"As far as I have been able to learn, the original inhabitants of Buckhaven were from the Netherlands about the time of Philip II. Their veſſel had been ſtranded on the ſhore. They propoſed to ſettle and remain. The family of Wemyſs gave them permiſſion. They accordingly ſettled at Buckhaven. By degrees they acquired our language and adopted our dreſs, and for theſe threeſcore years paſt, they have had the character of a ſober and ſenſible, an induſtrious and honeſt ſet of people. The only ſingularity in their ancient cuſtoms that I remember to have heard of was, that of a richly ornamented girdle or belt, wore by their brides of good condition and character at their marriage, and then laid aſide

"and

* He publiſhed an Engliſh tranſlation of Plato, de Repub.

" and given in like manner to the next bride that ſhould " be deemed worthy of ſuch an honour. The village con- " ſiſts at preſent of about 140 families, 60 of which are " fiſhers, the reſt land-labourers, weavers, and other me- " chanics."

Minerals and Foſſils.—There is a great quantity of free-ſtone, but in general of a reddiſh colour, open and porous, and apt to crumble when much expoſed to the weather. There is limeſtone, but it is ſaid not to be of a good quality; perhaps it would have been more valued had lime been in leſs abundance in the neighbourhood. Ironſtone has lately begun to be wrought; but what deſerves here particularly to be noticed is the excellent coal with which this pariſh abounds, and which has been wrought for ſome centuries. In the weſt ground of the pariſh, beſides what is called Dyſart coal, (which is 21 feet thick, with 3 feet of coarſe coal left for a roof) of which a very extenſive field remains to be wrought in the eſtate of Wemyſs, there are other 10 or 11 workable ſeams of coal, moſt of which have been wrought above the level of the ſea. The principal ſeam of the 10 or 11 is now working between 50 or 60 fathoms below the ſurface. This ſeam is 10 feet thick, but 8 feet of it is only wrought, *viz.* 5 feet of very fine ſplint, and 3 feet of free, the other 2 feet being left for a roof. The water is raiſed by a ſteam-engine. The coal is brought to the pit-bottom by horſes under ground, and then raiſed by horſe-gins. Coal for exportation is driven in large waggons from the pits to the harbour of Weſter Wemyſs. The other ſeams in this part of the pariſh, which have been wrought, are all entire below the level of the ſea, excepting one, a ſmall part of which was wrought near the ſea, about the year 1656, at which time the water was drawn off by horſes.

In the eaſt ground of the pariſh there are ſeveral workable ſeams of coal. The Right Hon. David Earl of Wemyſs, (a nobleman of a great and public ſpirit, who kept a particular account of the coal, written with his own hand, mentions ſeven ſeams of coal which he had cut through in making a level mine from the ſea ſhore, which he drove upwards of 600 fathoms acroſs the metals. In working this level in 1671, he obſerves, "I am ſtill working that level in ſtone, with two men in it day and night (except Sundays). I give them 10 s. Scots a-day, their bearers 4 s. Scots a-day, the windles men get 6 s. Scots a day or night. I ſharp their picks and furniſh their candles." The only ſeams that have been wrought in this part of the pariſh for a conſiderable time were, one 8 feet thick, and 20 fathoms from the ſurface, and another much about the ſame thickneſs, and 7 fathoms deeper. The main coal is 12 feet thick, of an excellent quality, and was always preferred at the foreign markets. It was formerly wrought to a conſiderable depth by two engines, at Kirkland of Methil, which were driven by the water of Leven. To the S. of Kirkland this coal is cut off by a hitch or dike, which throws it down 30 fathoms. This has lately been cut out under the care of a very ingenious and active engineer, and the coal is now working level free. A waggon-way of 2 miles from the pits to the harbour of Methil is now completed, and every thing promiſes an extenſive trade; and indeed, from this ſeam of coal, with others lying contiguous, it would not be at all ſurpriſing to ſee, in a few years, Methil rank among the firſt coal-ports in Scotland *.

Salt.

* David Earl of Wemyſs, in his remarks on Methil, obſerves, that "the Biſhop of St Andrew's did create it into a free burgh of barony in 1662,

Salt.—There are 9 ſalt-pans at Methil, and 7 at Weſter Wemyſs. Theſe works have been long carried on, and much ſalt is made at them, both for land-ſale and exportation.

Manufactures, Commerce, &c.—Almoſt every ſubſtantial family uſed annually to make a few pieces of good linen, from yarn of their own ſpinning, which was wrought by weavers in the pariſh, and generally bleached by the proprietors themſelves, and then ſold in the public markets held in this and the neighbouring pariſhes for the purpoſe. In this way the weavers had been employed time immemorial till about the year 1750, that ſome in Eaſter Wemyſs began to manufacture linen themſelves, and ever ſince this buſineſs has been extended and improved. The linen now made is generally well known for its quality and fineneſs. Moſt of it is made from Scotch flax, the greateſt part of which is ſpun in the pariſh. It is thought by manufacturers to be ſuperior to any in the country; and in confirmation of this, it may here be obſerved, that the premiums given by the truſtees for linen and ſheeting were adjudged for 5 years ſucceſſively to manufacturers in this pariſh; to one in the years 1785 and 1786, and to another in the 1787, 1788, and 1789. Since the latter period, the number of looms has increaſed, and the manufactory varied; part of the looms being now employed in weaving checks and ticks for manufacturers in this and the neighbouring pariſhes. There are about 120 looms employed.

At

" 1662, called Methil, with a weekly mercate on the Wedneſdays, and " two public fairs in the year, viz. one on the 22d June, St John's day, " and 27th December, alſo St John's day in winter, in that year 1662, " and ſo for ever, holden of him and his ſucceſſors, Biſhops of St An- " drew's, paying him yearly 20s. Scots as a feu-duty for ever."

At Kirkland, in the N. E. extremity of the pariſh, on the river Leven, near the ports of Methil and Inverleven, a large ſpinning work has been carried on for ſome time, by ſome gentlemen of London and Dundee, under the firm of Aiſlabie, Nielſon, and Company. They ſpin a conſiderable quantity of cotton and linen yarn, particularly of the latter, which they have begun to manufacture into cloth. Their yarns are approved of, and they are believed to be going on very ſucceſsfully. The ſituation of this eſtabliſhment is a very advantageous one, and it is capable of great extenſion, as well for bleaching and printing, as for ſpinning the yarns and manufacturing the cloth. The company already employ about 300 people, and the buſineſs ſeems to be increaſing. Previous to the eſtabliſhment of this work, there were at Kirkland only two or three houſes, but now a number of very neat and convenient houſes are built, and in a ſhort time it is probable that it will be a conſiderable village. Kirkland is ſaid to have been the place firſt propoſed by the Carron Company for eſtabliſhing their works.

A little to the weſt of Kirkland is a waulk or fulling-mill, and dye-houſe, where buſineſs has been long carried on, and is conſiderably increaſed of late years. There is only one corn-mill in the pariſh, but there are others equally convenient on Colonel Wemyſs's property, lying in the pariſh of Markinch.

The *maritime commerce* has much increaſed of late. There are 10 ſquare-rigged veſſels and one ſloop belonging to this pariſh, whoſe regiſter meaſure may amount to upwards of 1480 tons. They are moſtly employed in the carrying trade. They are generally loaded with coal outwardly, and bring home wood, iron, flax, *&c.* from the Baltic to the different ports in the frith of Forth. Some

of them have been freighted to the Mediterranean, Weſt Indies, and America; and one is at preſent engaged by Government in the tranſport ſervice.

At Weſter Wemyſs *two ſhip-carpenters* began to build ſhips about ſeven years ago. The ſituation is good, and they have found great encouragement. They employ about 18 apprentices, and ſeveral journeymen. Here ſome of the beſt veſſels which have ſailed from the frith of Forth for the Weſt Indies have been built, as well as ſome for the Baltic trade. Other two ſhip-carpenters have juſt begun to build at Methil, a moſt convenient ſituation for the buſineſs, and it is thought that they will meet with equal encouragement with the former.

A gentleman in Eaſter Wemyſs, who carries on a conſiderable brewery, lately began to import wood from the Baltic, which has been of great advantage to the neighbourhood; and from the rapid and extenſive ſale which he has met with, cannot fail to ſecure benefit to himſelf.

There are properly no *merchants* in the pariſh, with the above exception. Some perſons ſell a ſmall quantity of neceſſary articles; but as there are opportunities every day of being provided with theſe at a cheaper rate from Kirkcaldy, they meet with no great encouragement.

The *ſea-weed* on the rocks upon the ſhore is cut every 3 years, and yields about 100 tons of kelp. The time of cutting is in June and July.

There are two good *harbours* in the pariſh. One at Methil, which was built by the Right Hon. David Earl of Wemyſs about the year 1650, ſolely at his own expence. The other is at Weſter Wemyſs, but when built is unknown. It was ſome years ago greatly improved by a baſon for cleaning it.

Exports

Exports and Imports.—Coal and ſalt are the only exports. The quantity differs according to the demands. At an average there is ſhipped at Weſter Wemyſs annually 6000 tons of coal, moſtly for Amſterdam, Hamburgh, and Middleburgh, being of a quality particularly ſuited for light-houſes. The light on the iſland of May, at the entrance of the frith of Forth, is ſupplied from this coal *.

About 40,000 buſhels of ſalt are annually ſhipped from this pariſh for the different ports from Dundee to Inverneſs.

The imports are moſtly oak-timber for ſhip-building, Memel and Norway timber, deals, *&c.* Gottenburgh iron, deals and battons; in all about 10 cargoes in the year.

Bridges and Roads.—There are no bridges in the pariſh, but a ſmall one over a rivulet that paſſes through Eaſter Wemyſs, nor is there any need for more. The turnpike-road from Kirkcaldy to Cupar by Kennoway, and to the eaſt of Fife, paſſes through the north part of the pariſh; but from its diſtance from the coaſt, being near 1½ mile, the greater part of the inhabitants reap little advantage from it.

Inns.—There are properly no inns, but there are a ſufficient number of houſes where ale and ſpirits are ſold.

Price of Proviſions and of Labour.—The price of proviſions and of labour has conſiderably advanced of late years. The price of butcher meat is from 4 d. to 5½ d. a-pound tron, at different ſeaſons of the year; of butter, from 7½ d. to

* As there is now a pretty certain proſpect of the great coal in the eaſt part of the pariſh being again wrought, it is probable that a much greater quantity of coal will be exported from the port of Methil.

to 10 d.; of a hen, from 1 s. to 1 s. 4 d.; of chickens, from 7 d. to 9 d. a pair; of eggs, from 3 d. to 5 d. a dozen.

The wages of men-ſervants are from L. 6 to L. 8 a-year; and thoſe who have houſes of their own, and maintain themſelves, have 6½ bolls of meal, with an allowance of milk, and ſometimes, in lieu of milk, L. 1, 6 s. Day-labourers have from March to October 1 s. 2 d. a-day, and 1 s. the reſt of the year. Maſons 1 s. 8 d. and carpenters or wrights 1 s. 6 d.

Population.—According to the account given to Dr Webſter in 1755, the number of ſouls amounted to 3041. The following is a pretty accurate liſt taken in the year 1791:

	Families.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Weſter Wemyſs, -	235	353	416	769
Eaſter Wemyſs, -	153	268	289	557
Buckhaven, -	163	277	324	601
Methil, -	81	153	161	314
E. and W. Coaltowns,	93	166	227	393
Country, including Kirkland,	71	191	200	391
	796	1408	1617	3025
Total in 1755, -		-		3041
Decreaſed, -		-		16

Liſt

Liſt of Births and Marriages, taken from the Pariſh Regiſter, for 10 *Years* *.

	Births.			*Marriages.*
	Male.	Fem.	Tot.	
1782,	26	32	58	29
1783,	28	36	64	10
1784,	34	20	54	33
1785,	34	43	77	35
1786,	47	60	107	13
1787,	37	35	72	21
1788,	43	53	96	24
1789,	35	39	74	21
1790,	49	55	104	25
1791,	44	33	77	17
Total,	-		783†	228

Population has certainly increaſed in ſome of the villages, particularly in Eaſter Wemyſs and Methil; but it has greatly decreaſed in the country part of the pariſh. In the ſeſſion-records, there is mention of many places, of ſome of which no veſtige can now be traced; and that which remains of others, is only a few aſh-trees, which were uſually planted round their gardens or kail-yards. This decreaſe is owing to the ſame cauſes which have in general operated in other parts of the country, *viz.* the monopolizing

* The people in this pariſh are remarkably attentive to regiſter their childrens births; and of the above liſt of marriages, both bridegroom and bride, with a few exceptions, belonged to the pariſh. There being two burying-places beſides the church-yard, and no proper regiſter of deaths kept, the number of burials cannot be aſcertained.

† During the above period there were 8 times twins.

nopolizing of farms, the introduction of two-horſe ploughs, incloſing, and a greater proportion of land laid out in graſs.

Eccleſiaſtical State, Heritor, &c.—The church is an old Gothic building in the form of a croſs; there are evident marks of conſiderable additions to it, but no dates that can fix its age. It was repaired and much improved in 1792, and is now a well-lighted, warm, and decent place of worſhip. The church and manſe are in the thriving village of Eaſter Wemyſs, the moſt centrical part of the pariſh. The patronage belongs to the Town-council of Edinburgh. It belonged to the family of Wemyſs till about the 1214, when Sir John de Wemyſs * gifted it to a religious houſe at Soltray in Mid-Lothian. The reaſon he aſſigned for this donation is in theſe words, "pro anima mea, et anima "Comitis Duncani, et pro animabus patris et matris."

Colonel William Wemyſs of Wemyſs, Eſq; member of Parliament for the county of Fife, is ſole heritor of the pariſh, and his family reſides in it at the caſtle of Wemyſs. The ſtipend, as ſettled by the Court of Seſſion February 1794, is L. 50 of money, 64 bolls of meal, 32 bolls of bear, and L. 5 : 11 : 1½ for furniſhing communion-elements. The manſe was built in 1791, and, to the honour of the heritor, it is one of the beſt in the country. Moſt of the old offices were removed in the ſame year, and a part of the old manſe was fitted up to ſupply their place. The ſite of manſe, garden, and offices includes about an acre of ground, incloſed with ſtone walls. The glebe contains between

* This Sir John was the firſt who took the ſirname of Wemyſs. Till about this time ſirnames were not uſed in Scotland. They only added either their father's name after their own, or ſome epithet expreſſive of ſomething which referred either to body or mind.——BUCHAN. Hiſt. rer. Scoticar. lib. 7.

tween 8 and 9 acres, and is all incloſed *. There are ſome rocks and ſea-weed, which belong to the miniſter, and as this property is near the glebe, it is of great advantage for manure. For the kelp from the rocks the preſent incumbent has received about L. 5, 5 s. every three years.

There was once a parſonage and vicarage at Methil, the patronage of which was diſponed by Archbiſhop Hamilton to Sir John Wemyſs of Wemyſs, who died in 1571 †.

The following Perſons have been Miniſters of this Pariſh ſince the Revolution.

Rev. Mr Archibald Riddell, admitted October 1691, and tranſlated to Kirkcaldy June 1697.

Rev. Mr Thomas Black, tranſlated from Strathmiglo October 1697, and tranſlated to Perth July 1698.

Rev. Mr James Grierſon, ordained September 1698, and tranſlated to Edinburgh July 1710.

Rev. Mr John Cleghorn, tranſlated from Burntiſland February 1711, died at Wemyſs February 1744.

Rev. Mr Harry Spens, ordained November 1744, and tranſlated to the Profeſſorſhip of Divinity in the Univerſity of St Andrew's, October 1780.

Rev.

* A conſiderable quantity of flax is raiſed in this pariſh; and the glebe, from the following remark, will appear to be no unfavourable ſoil for it. The Rev. Dr Spens ſowed one year 9 lippies of lintſeed, which yielded from the mill 18 ſtones. In 1787, the preſent incumbent ſowed 3 lippies, which he winnowed from his preceding crop, and it yielded from the mill 7½ ſtones. The ſame year he ſowed 2 lippies of foreign ſeed, which only yielded 2 ſtones 10 lb. It may be of ſome advantage to obſerve, that the lint 1787 was pulled before it was fully ripened, and great care was taken in the watering of it. Much lint is loſt from being too long in the water.

† This Sir John Wemyſs, ſays Biſhop Leſlie, "upon the head of the "Gentlemen of Fife in 1547, gave the Engliſh, who landed in the coun- "ty, a conſiderable defeat, and killed about 700 of them."

Rev. Mr William Greenfield, ordained September 1781, and tranſlated to Edinburgh, November 1784.
The preſent incumbent was ordained March 1785.

Catechiſt.—The Right Honourable George Earl of Cromartie, in 1705, in teſtimony of his great affection and honour to the memory of Margaret, heireſs and Counteſs of Wemyſs, and Counteſs of Cromartie, his deceaſed Lady, mortified a ſmall ſum of money for founding a ſtipend or ſalary to a catechiſt, for catechiſing and inſtructing the coaliers and ſalters, and others in the pariſh of Wemyſs, to be paid yearly to the kirk-ſeſſion of Wemyſs, under the care and direction of the family of Wemyſs, and miniſter of the pariſh, for ſaid uſe, and the payment to be made on the firſt day of January Old Style, being the birth-day of that illuſtrious Counteſs. The gift of preſentation is in the family of Wemyſs, and the preſentee to be tried and admitted by the miniſter and kirk-ſeſſion. The preſent catechiſt is the firſt on the eſtabliſhment; he was admitted in 1749; his ſalary is L. 250 : 3 : 4 Scotch money, and the intereſt of L. 50 Sterling.

School.—The ſchool-houſe was built in 1694. The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary is L. 6 : 13 : 4. He has a houſe and garden. The number of ſcholars in winter is about 60, and in ſummer 40. The fees *per* quarter are, for Engliſh, 1 s. 2 d.; Engliſh and writing, 1 s. 6 d.; arithmetic, 2 s. Latin, 2 s. 6 d.; book-keeping and navigation, a guinea for each. As precentor and ſeſſion-clerk, he has yearly L. 2, 10 s. and 12 s. 6 d. every time that the Lord's Supper is diſpenſed; for each marriage 2 s. 3 d. and each baptiſm 10 d.; for parochial certificates about a guinea a-year. There are ſeveral private ſchools.

Poor.—The number of poor who receive regular ſupply from the kirk-ſeſſion on an average is 39, each of whom receive from 1 s. to 2 s. 6 d. the month. There are others, not upon the roll, who receive annually 5 s. ſometimes more, to enable them to pay their houſe-rent; and ſeveral others receive occaſional ſupply, as circumſtances require; the annual amount of all which is from L. 50 to L. 60, raiſed by the weekly collections at church, the dues of pall or mortcloth, and the intereſt of L. 300.

Diſſenters.—There are but few Diſſenters in the pariſh. There is a Burgher meeting-houſe at Buckhaven, but has no miniſter. Thoſe of the Antiburgher perſuaſion have places of worſhip in the pariſhes of Dyſart and Markinch. There are about 24 who join the Preſbytery of Relief, and 6 of the Epiſcopal perſuaſion.

Antiquities, Caſtle of Wemyſs, &c.—Under this article may be ranked the ruins of the caſtle of Eaſter Wemyſs, uſually called Macduff's Caſtle, and ſaid to have been built by Macduff, who was created Earl of Fife about the 1057, and on whom King Malcolm Canmore conferred many very uncommon privileges. Two ſquare towers, and a conſiderable part of a wall that has ſurrounded the caſtle, ſtill remain. It is ſituated on a delightful eminence, about 100 yards from the ſhore.

In the 1290, on the death of King Alexander III. the Eſtates of the kingdom ſent Sir Michael Wemyſs of Wemyſs, and Sir Michael Scot of Balweary, in the pariſh of Abbotſhall, as ambaſſadors to Norway, to bring home Princeſs Margaret, grand-daughter to the late king, and undoubted heireſs of the Crown of Scotland. Fordun, in his hiſtory, ſays, "Nobiles Scotiæ duos milites, ſcientia et moribus præclaros Michaelem Wemyſs et Michaelem Scot ad Regem Norvegiæ, ſolemniter direxerunt." Buchanan

nan ſtyles them, "Equites Fifani illuſtres." They went to Norway; but unhappily for them and their country, the Princeſs died at Orkney on her paſſage to Scotland. As a monument of this honourable embaſſy there is ſtill preſerved in the caſtle of Wemyſs a large ſilver baſon, of an antique figure, which was given by the King of Norway to Sir Michael Wemyſs.

Perhaps, under this article ſhould alſo be mentioned a ſtone, on the turnpike-road, about one-third of a mile after entering the pariſh from the eaſt; it has ſtood time immemorial; is 4 feet in height above ground, and 3 feet diameter, by ſome called the Standing Stone, by others the Half-way Stone between Kirkcaldy and Kennoway. For what reaſon it was placed there, the writer could never learn any thing ſatisfactory.

The caſtle of Wemyſs, ſituated a little to the eaſt of the burgh of Weſter Wemyſs, and cloſe by the ſhore, on a cliff between 30 and 40 feet above the level of the ſea, is a large and magnificent building. When it was built is uncertain, but part of the eaſt wing is ſaid to be near, if not as old as the caſtle of Eaſter Wemyſs. It received conſiderable additions about the beginning of the 17th century, from the Right Honourable David Earl of Wemyſs, and his grandſon, being Lord High Admiral of Scotland, raiſed a good wall, in the form of a fort, upon a beautiful bowling-green, and placed a few cannon to anſwer ſalutes from ſhips as they paſſed. The preſent proprietor laid out a piece of ground, ſome years ago, in a garden, with high walls, an elegant green-houſe, hot-houſes, *&c.*; and it is ſaid that there are few, if any gardens in Scotland, where there is ſo much forcing as in this. It was in the caſtle of Wemyſs that Lord Darnly had his firſt interview with Queen Mary, 13th February 1565. The Queen was at this time on a tour of viſits in Fife, which, ſays the famous John Knox, cauſed

cauſed wild fowl to be ſo dear, that partridges were ſold at a crown a-piece.

Perhaps in few pariſhes has land been longer in the poſſeſſion of one family than in this. Hugo, or Eugenius, ſecond ſon of Gillimacheal, 4th Earl of Fife, and grandſon of Macduff, the firſt Earl, got from his father the lands of Wemyſſhire, *&c. &c.* and his deſcendent is preſent proprietor of them. Gillimacheal was witneſs to the foundation-charter of the Abbey of Holyroodhouſe in the 1128. The lands of Weſter Wemyſs have been uninterruptedly poſſeſſed by the noble family of Wemyſs ſince the above period. The lands of Eaſter Wemyſs went off from the family, and were poſſeſſed by a family of the name of Livingſton, and then by the Colvills of Ochiltree; but after 200 years ſeparation, they were again added to the eſtate of Wemyſs, by the Right Honourable John Earl of Wemyſs, who was High Commiſſioner to the General Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland in the year 1641.

Caves.—It was obſerved, that the pariſh derives its name from the number of natural caves in it. There are ſeven a little to the eaſt of Eaſter Wemyſs, and all but one about 100 yards from high-water mark. Four of them were long ago fitted up for, and ſtill are pigeon-houſes. There are two at the bottom of the cliff, and immediately under the ruins of the caſtle of Eaſter Wemyſs; one of them is called Jonathan's Cave, from a man who, with his family, reſided ſome time in it; the entrance to the other is very narrow, but after having got through it, you find yourſelf in a very ſpacious place, in which is a well of excellent water; it is annually viſited by the young people of Eaſter Wemyſs, with lights, upon the firſt Monday of January Old Style, but from what this cuſtom took its riſe the writer could never learn. The ſeventh (the neareſt to the ſhore)

ſhore) is called the Court Cave, and two reaſons are aſſigned for the name; one is, that when the lands of Eaſter Wemyſs were the property of the Colvills, they here held their baron-court; another, that King James IV. in a frolick once joined a company of gypſies, who were here making merry, and when the liquor began to operate, the gypſies, as uſual with people of their character, began to quarrel among themſelves; upon this his Majeſty attempted to mediate between the parties, but they, ignorant of the rank of their new aſſociate, were about to handle him pretty roughly for his goodneſs, which obliged the King to diſcover himſelf; in alluſion to this affair, the cave was afterwards ironically called the Court Cave. There is another cave a little to the eaſt of the caſtle of Wemyſs, and much about the ſame diſtance from the ſhore as the former. This cave, which is about 200 feet in length, 100 in breadth, and 30 in height, was fitted up about 60 years ago by a tackſman for a glaſs-work; but ſoon after the work commenced, the man became bankrupt, and the buildings were allowed to go to ruins.

Advantages and Diſadvantages.—The pariſh derives great advantage from the abundance of coal; and when fiſhing was plenty, living was much cheaper here than in moſt places. One diſadvantage which the commercial part labour under, is the want of a poſt-office. Though Dyſart, which is the neareſt poſt-town, is not at a great diſtance, yet as letters cannot be anſwered the ſame day on which they are received, without ſending them by expreſs to the office, much inconvenience is thereby occaſioned, which could be eaſily remedied at a very ſmall expence, as the poſt-boy paſſes through Eaſter Wemyſs on his way to Leven.

Character.

Character.—The people in general are ſober and induſtrious, regular in their attendance upon public worſhip, and apparently contented with their ſituations *.

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* At a period when the abolition of the ſlave-trade has become the ſubject of Parliamentary conſideration, the following anecdote may not be diſagreeable, as being perhaps the firſt proceſs of the kind that came before the Court of Seſſion:—A gentleman from the Weſt Indies, reſiding ſome time at Methil, a negro ſervant, whom he had brought with him, embraced at that time the Chriſtian religion, and was baptized in the church of Wemyſs, September 10. 1769, by the name of David Spens. Soon after this his maſter reſolved to ſend him back to, and ſell him as a ſlave in the Weſt Indies; but Spens getting information of it, immediately left his maſter, and went to the houſe of a farmer in the pariſh. The maſter then raiſed a proceſs before the Court of Seſſion againſt Spens to return to his ſlavery, and againſt the farmer for adviſing him to deſert, and alſo for protecting him. To defend Spens from the oppreſſion of his maſter, and to aſſiſt him in aſſerting, what they conceived, his juſt rights and privileges as a Britiſh ſubject, the inhabitants of the pariſh readily eſpouſed his cauſe, and raiſed a conſiderable ſum of money. The cauſe was enrolled January 1770. Four lawyers were engaged; and on the 2d February, the cauſe was ably pled on both ſides. Memorials were appointed to be given in for both parties; but ſoon after this the maſter died, and the cauſe was dropt. To the honour of the lawyers engaged, for the defendant, viz. Meſſrs Croſbie, Al. Ferguſon, Hay and Belſches, Advocates, and Mr Walter Ferguſon, writer, agent, none of them would accept of a fee.

NUMBER XXVII.

PARISH OF SLEAT,

(COUNTY OF INVERNESS, SYNOD OF GLENELG, AND PRESBYTERY OF SKY).

By the Rev. Mr MARTIN MACPHERSON, *Miniſter.*

Origin of the Name, &c.

AS is the caſe in moſt etymological remarks, nothing certain can be ſaid as to the word Sleat. It is moſt probably Daniſh, and may poſſibly allude to the peninſular ſituation of the place; it is a fact, that the names of many of the farms are in that language, ſuch as Oſtaig, Tarſkvaig, Saaſaig, Toakvaig, and Mourſaig; that is to ſay, Eaſt Bay, North Bay, South Bay, *&c.*

Situation, Extent, and Produce.—The pariſh is ſtretched N. E. and S. W. forming an extent of 17 Engliſh miles along the ſea, having the mainland of Scotland oppoſite to it on the eaſt, *viz.* the diſtricts of Glenelg, Knoydart, Morar, and Ariſaig, the breadth of the channel varying from a quarter of a mile to two leagues. Sleat is bounded on

the W. and N. by the pariſh of Strath. The breadth of the pariſh is from one mile to three and a half, being, like all parts of the iſland of Sky, interſected by different arms of the ſea.

The two extremities of the pariſh conſiſt of conſiderable tracts of tolerable paſture-ground, well calculated for rearing black cattle, equal in quality to any the neighbourhood produces; indeed, the whole weſt ſide of the pariſh is made up of a pleaſant mixture of arable and rough ground; and there one may likewiſe find three conſiderable ſtools of natural wood, conſiſting of oak, aſh, elm, birch, arn, rone-tree, hazle, willow, and other aquatics.

Wood is peculiar to this part of the iſland of Sky, there being hardly a tree, natural or planted, excepting here; it may be ſuperfluous to add, that this contributes much to the ornament, not to ſay uſefulneſs of the different tenures on which this valuable commodity grows.

The eaſt ſide of the pariſh, particularly from the farm of Knock to Tormore, forming an extent of five miles in length, and from one to one and a half in breadth, is arable, the ſoil being deep clay, in ſome places of a bluiſh, in others of a reddiſh colour, exceedingly adapted to ditching and hedging; produces middling crops of oats and potatoes, though, in ſpite of its ſouthern expoſure, the harveſts are in general late, owing to the ground being damp, and in ſome places ſpouty, added, as was formerly mentioned, to its clayey texture; it cannot however remain a doubt, that by proper attention to incloſures and ditches, (ſhould encouragement offer), an induſtrious farmer would here find a good ſubject to ſpeculate and practiſe upon. The barony of Sleat is now ſubdivided into 26 different farms or tenements, which at a moderate calculation, may ſow about 20 bolls each, in all 520. There is hardly any barley, the ſea-ware growing on the ſhore being almoſt entirely laid out

out in manuring potatoes. That uſeful root is much, and indeed neceſſarily cultivated here, the inhabitants living great part of the year on potatoes, and various ſorts of fiſh, chiefly herrings, ſhoals of which regularly and providentially make their appearance in almoſt all the bays and lochs round the iſland, about the 20th of July, and generally remain in leſs or greater bodies till the middle of December. Nature, indeed, ſeems to have made ſome proviſion for the ſupport of the inhabitants of this land, as the fiſh caſts up nearly at the time that the meal is conſumed. There may be planted in the pariſh of Sleat about 300 bolls of potatoes. Their meaſure is a herring-barrel filled, of ſuch they allow three to a boll; what proportion this bears to the legal meaſure in the Low Country, I know not, but there may be 900 barrels planted annually, but it is to be underſtood, that this is almoſt altogether done in the lazy-bed way. What attaches the inhabitants to this mode of planting potatoes is, that they conceive the ground requires leſs preparation than when planted in the drill. Of oats there are from 4 to 6 returns; potatoes from 10 to 14; there have been from 34 to 38 returns in the drill way, but this held nowhere but in ſmall ſpots, where the preparation of the ground was much attended to. There are only 12 ploughs in the pariſh; the other implements of tillage are garden and crooked ſpades. Lintſeed is ſown here with ſucceſs, though in ſmall quantities, but enough to ſhow that the ground is well adapted to ſuch purpoſe.

The fuel is entirely turf or peat; it is unneceſſary to deſcribe the proceſs of cutting and drying it; but I am ſorry to obſerve, that this article takes up a great proportion of the farmer's time, and that very often their labour is in vain, particularly when the latter end of ſummer, and the beginning of autumn, happens to be rainy, which unfortunately is too often the caſe in the Weſtern Highlands, and this

this circumſtance muſt make the huſbandman and grazier bid adieu to all regular calculation.

At a moderate calculation, there may be 2600 head of black cattle in the pariſh. It is impoſſible to ſay exactly what number is annually ſold, as the ſales muſt depend upon a number of contingent circumſtances. The breed of horſes is ſmall, and entirely uſed for the different purpoſes of agriculture, the number may be 250 or thereabout. As to ſheep, the number in the pariſh is ſo few, that it is hardly worth the calculating. Such as can afford to eat mutton are obliged to purchaſe from the neighbouring ſheep-walks.

Population.—In the year 1755, the number of ſouls in the pariſh was 1250; and now, notwithſtanding emigrations, and repeated drains to the army, the inhabitants amount to 1788. The proportion of males to females is as 5 to 6; the number of deaths for years back is from 18 to 28; marriages from 9 to 14; births at an average 40. There are now eight men in the pariſh upwards of 80; of women above that age, five; of that number, one is 98, and another 95.

Antiquities.—There are two caſtles in this pariſh tolerably conſpicuous; 1*ſt*, *Dunſkaich*, built upon a rock, on the weſt ſide of Sleat; the communication betwixt this rock and the oppoſite ſide was kept up by a draw-bridge, but from the appearance of the maſon-work on that ſide of the caſtle, the arch ſeems to be modern; the building on the weſt ſide has every appearance of antiquity, part being circular, and covered from top to bottom with ivy. There has been a priſon and draw-well; all this ſeems to infer, that the edifice was reared at different times, and perhaps in different ages; he muſt be an ill-informed reader that

does not know that this caſtle is much celebrated in the well-known works of Fingal. At the diſtance of three miles on the eaſtern ſhore ſtands caſtle *I' Chamuis, i. e.* the Caſtle at the end of a Bay. This ſtructure is likewiſe partly ancient, partly modern, one ſide being circular, and covered with ivy, the other being built in the common ſtyle of maſonry. This caſtle held out a ſiege, if I remember well, in the reign of James IV. from the Macleods, who had obtained the Royal ſanction for committing depredations on the country. The ſiege was raiſed in a great meaſure through the addreſs and intrepidity of a lady, ſtyled, *Mari Chaiſtail, i. e.* Mary of the Caſtle, her reſidence being probably in the caſtle or neighbourhood previous to the ſiege; it does not, however, appear, that this heroine ſhared the ſame fate with the Maid of Orleans. There are beſides five duns, of which hardly any thing remains but the name; ſuch as, Dun-Phaick in Kilmore, Dun-Flo in Tormore, Dun-Geilt in Carradle, Dun-Iſlay in Oſtaig, Dunan-Choinach; the three firſt are Daniſh. At Dun-Flo there may be ſeen a number of human bones, a party of King William's troops having landed from a ſhip of a Captain Porringer in the month of September 1688, after having burned the houſe of Sir Donald Macdonald, were by the natives forced to reimbark after a ſkirmiſh, in which the Royaliſts were defeated with the loſs of 26 men. Dun-Iſlay ſeems to have taken its name from the following circumſtance; a party of the inhabitants of that iſland, at a very remote period, landed in the neighbourhood of this rock, where they fortified themſelves, and were at length cut off by the inhabitants.

Church.—The pariſh-church was built in the year 1681, and has lately undergone repairs; it is the largeſt ſtructure

of

of that ſort in the iſland. There is no manſe or deſigned glebe, the preſent incumbent being accommodated with a farm and tolerable manſion-houſe. The ſtipends amount to no more than the *minimum, viz.* 800 merks Scots, communion-elements, according to ſome mens opinion, inclusive. The King is Patron; Lord Macdonald ſole heritor. The real rent is L. 1300 Sterling, or thereabouts. All the inhabitants are Preſbyterians.

School.—There is a parochial ſchool, in which moſt branches of literature are at preſent taught by James Beverly, a native of Aberdeen, the number of ſcholars attending varies from 25 to 40. The ſalary and emoluments of the ſchool may amount to L. 24 Sterling. There has been no Society-ſchool ſince the year 1778.

Poor.—They are in number at this time 25, who are ſupported in ſome meaſure by the collection. They have been of late years much obliged to the donations of a gentleman, who is a native of this country, (a ſon of the late incumbent of this pariſh), Sir John Macpherſon, once Governor-General of Bengal.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—There are no made roads in this pariſh. There is an excellent and well-known harbour, *Iſle Ornaſay*, a good deal frequented by ſhipping, though they are generally ſmall, owing to its local ſituation; there is anchorage for veſſels of almoſt any ſize; I have often ſeen 100 ſail riding at once in the bay, chiefly herring-buſſes; now and then, indeed, ſhips from the Baltic touch here. Wages of men-ſervants are from L. 2 to L. 3 Sterl. each, beſides ſhoes; the wages of women from 12s. to L. 1, and ſhoes. I conceive it unneceſſary to give any ſort of general

general character of the genius or temper of the inhabitants; it is probable that ſome of my neighbouring brethren may have favoured the public with ſuch diſquiſitions, of courſe their information may ſatisfy the reader as to the manners and cuſtoms of the pariſhioners of Sleat, there being naturally much ſimilarity, by reaſon of the contiguity of the pariſhes. I deem it likewiſe ſuperfluous, if not impertinent, to give any opinion as to the manner in which this part of the country is treated by the Legiſlature, or more properly ſpeaking, by thoſe in power, as it is to be ſuppoſed, that in a proportionate degree the ſame attention is paid to it, as to the reſt of the empire.

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NUMBER XXVIII.

PARISH OF PETERHEAD,

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF ABERDEEN, DISTRICT OF BUCHAN, AND PRESBYTERY OF DEER).

By the Rev. Dr MOIR, *Miniſter.*

Name.

THE preſent name of this pariſh is Peterhead, formerly called Peter's-head, ſuppoſed to be derived from the promontory which lies between the town and the ſea, the Ταιξαλον or Ταιζαλον ακρον of Ptolemy, and to have the name of Peter, from being dedicated to a ſaint, or the Apoſtle of that name; though this is entirely conjecture. Some think the name has its derivation from the Greek word Πετρος, or the French word *Pierre*, each of theſe ſignifying a rock, on which the town is founded; others, that it takes its name from a Highland chieftain, called Peter, or Patrick, having loſt his head on a plundering expedition to this pariſh; in ſupport of this opinion, they ſay *Auchtiegall*, the name of a farm about two miles from the town, ſignifies in *Erſe*, The place where the Highlanders ſtood; and that

that *Cairngall*, now in the pariſh of Longſide, formerly part of this pariſh, was the place where they were encamped. What truth is in either of theſe conjectures, or if they deſerve any credit, I leave to *antiquarians* to determine; only obſerving, the derivation from the Greek or French appears to have little foundation, as Peter was part of the name of this pariſh before any part of the town was built; beſides, the town was formerly called *Keith Inch*, and retained that name till 1593, when it obtained a charter as a burgh of barony.

Ancient Extent.—The moſt ancient name of this pariſh was *Peter Ugie*, which is to be found in many charters. It was formerly of much greater extent than at preſent, and extended weſtward on both ſides of the Ugie (or its branches) in ſome parts nearly nine miles. In 1620, a great part of this pariſh was taken off, to form, with a part of Crimond, the pariſh of Longſide, which for ſome time was called *Weſtern Ugie*.

Situation.—The pariſh is ſituate in the county and Synod of *Aberdeen*, diſtrict of *Buchan*, and preſbytery of *Deer*; it is nearly 5 miles long from N. to S. and from 3 to 4 from E. to W.; bounded on the S. by the pariſh of *Cruden*; by *Longſide* on the W.; the water of *Ugie*, which ſeparates it from the pariſh of *St Fergus*, on the N.; and on the E. by the German Ocean.

Surface.—The pariſh is in general flat, with ſome little eminences, which can ſcarce be called hills; but from theſe little eminences, and the hollows formed betwixt them, the view is a little varied, and from the luxuriancy of the ſoil, were belts or clumps of trees interſperſed more frequently, of which there are very few, it would have a

pleaſant appearance; the S. and S. W. part being terminated by moſs and moor, has rather a bleak aſpect; but the N. part has a variety of objects to attract attention and pleaſe the eye; the old caſtles of *Raven's Craig* and *Inverugie*, formerly ſeats of the Earl Mariſchal; the river *Ugie*, a ſmall plantation of timber, ſome elegant farm-houſes, the arches of the bridge of *Inverugie*, a windmill, a proſpect of the town, and ſpire of the town-houſe of Peterhead, terminated by the ſea, with a continued field of rich and fertile ſoil, capable of the higheſt cultivation, render the proſpect very delightful. Moſt of theſe objects are obſerved from the high road; but on ſtepping aſide a few hundred yards to *Mount Pleaſant*, they are ſeen to greateſt advantage, with a few trees, venerable for their ſize and antiquity, contiguous to the houſe of *Inverugie*, a corn-mill and extenſive bleachfield on the north ſide of the *Ugie*, with the purling ſtreams, ſerpentine turns, and verdant banks of that river, which, taken altogether, form one of the richeſt and moſt beautiful landſcapes in *Buchan*.

The farther account of this pariſh will be divided into two parts, the country and the town; I ſhall firſt begin with the country part of the pariſh.

How of Buchan.—About a mile weſtward from the town is placed what is called the *How*, or *Holm* of Buchan, either from being the loweſt part of that diſtrict, or from a very ſtriking peculiarity, that on ſtepping aſide but a few yards from the high-road with houſes in your view on each ſide, and going down a very ſhort declivity, you ſoon ſee nothing before you or above, but a gentle riſing of the ground and the firmament. I am apt to think this peculiarity cannot now be found, from the erection of ſome houſes lately in the pariſh; at leaſt, I have examined the ſpot, without obſerving the ſame appearances which were there 30 years ago.

The

The ground in the pariſh riſes gradually from the ſea to the weſtward, nearly to the extremity of the pariſh in moſt places. The only eminence that can be called a *hill*, is the *Stirling Hill*, which ſeparates this pariſh on the S. from the pariſh of *Cruden*. The higheſt part of this hill is ſcarcely 200 feet above the level of the ſea. In time of war, perſons often reſort there to obſerve if any ſhips are on the coaſt; it is ſeen at a conſiderable diſtance at ſea, and was of great ſervice to the fiſhers on this coaſt as a land-mark, before they carried a compaſs in their boats, which is only a late precaution, and ſtill not generally uſed.

Bays.—There are two bays in the pariſh, the bays of *Peterhead* and *Invernettie*. The bay of Peterhead is formed by the town and neck of land, which projects betwixt it and the ſea on the N.; this promontory is called *Chalk Inch*, *Keith Inch*, and *Greenhill*, is unqueſtionably the eaſtermoſt point in Scotland, and ought to be called *Buchanneſs*. The bay is terminated on the S. by the lands of *Invernettie*, terminating in a point called *Satie's Head*. The other bay is formed from this point on the N. and part of the lands of *Boddom*, the termination of the *Stirling Hill* on the S.; this point is called *Boddom-head*; but in charts, and by moſt ſtrangers, is ſtyled the *Buchanneſs*. The diſtance from *Boddom-head* to the eaſtermoſt point of *Keith Inch*, is about 3 miles; and a line drawn through theſe two points is conſiderably to the eaſtward of *Satie's Head*, which divides theſe two bays. The ſhore on the ſouth ſide of the pariſh is rocky and high; at the head of each bay there is a ſandy beach. In the bay near to *Boddom-head*, there is a ſmall rock about half a mile, or a little more, from the land, called *Skerra*, in maps denominated *Craig Hurlie*, where people often go to gather dilſe, where ſome ſea-fowl reſort, and where the free maſons of this

town

town uſed ſometimes to hold their meetings, when members were admitted into their ſociety, and before the preſent *Keith Lodge* was erected in the town of Peterhead. The bay of Peterhead affords a very ſafe anchorage for ſhips of any burden, in all ſtrong gales of wind from the weſt, W. N. W. or W. S. W. and when they blow from this quarter with any degree of violence, moſt ſhips going either to the N. or S. are obliged to return hither for ſhelter; and in particular, when the wind blows from W. S. W. they can fetch no harbours on this coaſt, nor either the frith of *Cromarty* or *Forth*, and their only place of refuge is the bay and harbour of Peterhead.

Preſent Extent.—I know of no accurate ſurvey of this pariſh, which aſcertains preciſely the number of acres in it; I think they may be eſtimated at 7000; 5000 of which may be arable, and 2000 moſs and moor, which moſtly lie in the S. and S. W. parts of the pariſh.

Soil.—The ſoil is of great variety, from a ſandy loam and hazly thin ſoil, to a rich deep black earth, and a ſtrong clay ſoil; I am of opinion the greateſt part of the arable land, from the nature of the ſoil, is capable of as high culture, and, if properly managed, would produce as weighty crops as the ſame extent of land in moſt parts of the country.

Air.—The air is cold, when compared with that in other parts of the country, at leaſt in ſummer; in winter the froſts are not near ſo intenſe as in other places; the air is rather moiſt. In ſummer there is a miſt or fog proceeding frequently from the ſea, which ſometimes extends no farther than the town of Peterhead, and which is often peculiar to this pariſh, but it is by no means unwholeſome, and

though ſtrangers complain of it, I do not think their health, or the health of the inhabitants injured by it.

Diſeaſes.—There are no diſeaſes peculiar to this pariſh; rheumatiſm, phthiſis pulmonalis, ſcrofula and toothachs appear to be moſt frequent. In 1782, the influenza was very prevalent, but not fatal, excepting in two old perſons. The putrid ſore throat has within theſe few years made its appearance, and has proved fatal in many inſtances. Notwithſtanding the moiſture of the air of Peterhead, there is no inſtance of a real intermittent fever or ague being hatched in this pariſh. Many people have agues, but they bring them from Holland, the ſea-ports in the Baltic, the fenny counties of England, or the ſouth of Scotland.

Pleuriſies and peripneumonies are rare, though they ſometimes happen.

Fevers are very frequent; but whatever appearance they may aſſume at firſt, they generally terminate in a low nervous fever. From a very attentive obſervation and extenſive experience, I can ſpeak with confidence of the danger of blood-letting in general in fevers, unleſs there is appearance of inflammation on ſome particular part. There is, however, a general prejudice in favour of this practice; when a perſon falls ſick, he firſt bleeds, and then conſults his phyſician.

Mineral Waters.—There are a number of chalybeate ſprings in this pariſh, and a very ſtrong one in the town.

Lakes and Rivers.—There are no lakes in this pariſh, and only one river called the *Ugie*; this river conſiſts of two ſeparate ſmall rivers, which take their riſe about 18 or 20 miles from the ſea; they are called the waters of *Strichen* and *Deer*, from paſſing by in their courſe theſe

two

two villages; the two branches unite in one ſtream about five miles from this place, and then take the name of *Ugie*. The tide flows about a mile and a half up this river, as far as the bridge of *Inverugie*, which is very neat, conſiſting of two arches, and was conſidered of ſuch importance to this country, as to obtain an act of Parliament for its erection in the reign of James VII. Small coaſting veſſels may enter the river with the tide, and ſometimes come in, but very ſeldom; it might, however, be eaſily rendered navigable, at leaſt a canal might be made to communicate with the river. Such a plan has been in contemplation, the expence has been calculated by engineers, and I am informed it might be executed ſo as to reach a village in the centre of a very fertile and populous part of the country, about 10 miles from the ſea, at a leſs ſum than L. 4000; but no exertions have yet been made to carry this into effect, though the proprietors of the ground through which the canal muſt paſs, are in very affluent circumſtances, and by means of it the greateſt advantages would accrue to a large diſtrict of their property. In this pariſh there are ſeveral ſmall rivulets or ſtreams of water running in different directions, in which there are a few trouts and eels; from theſe *rills*, or ſmall *burns*, four mills are ſupplied with water for grinding grain into meal and malt, and there is one mill on the Ugie for the ſame purpoſe; there is one windmill near the town of Peterhead, on a ſmall eminence, for grinding malt, and which lately, by a ſmall addition to the machinery, ſtrikes pot (pearl) barley.

Salmon, &c.—In the water of Ugie there are ſalmon of an excellent quality. Theſe are ſeldom caught before the month of April, and from that time till the firſt of July are in greateſt perfection. There are great varieties of fine trout, finnocks, eels, minnows, and flounders in the river.

The

The rent of the ſalmon-fiſhing is L. 100 Sterling; and the number of barrels caught annually is at an average from 50 to 60; a few, for ſome years, have been pickled for the London market, owing to the tackſmen, who reſide in Peterhead, having very extenſive connections with that branch of trade elſewhere. Freſh ſalmon are ſold at $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. *per* pound, formerly at 2 d. There can, however, be no ground of complaint for the price being advanced, conſidering the high price this article gives in other parts of the country. There are no pikes nor ſhell-fiſh in the river, except the pearl muſcle, in which pearls of value are ſometimes found.

Loch of Myreſide.—I have ſaid there are no lakes in this pariſh. In winter, however, a ſmall *loch* is formed in one part of the pariſh, a conſiderable extent of ground being overflowed from the particular ſituation of the adjacent fields, and the ditches not being kept in proper order to carry off the ſtagnate water, called the *Loch of Myreſide*, where perſons fond of ſkating ſometimes find amuſement, when it is frozen over with ice, and where wild ducks, wild geeſe, and ſometimes ſwans reſort in winter. The lands overflowed by the water are meliorated in the ſoil, and would be more fertile if the ditches were kept in proper order.

Sea-Fiſh.—There is great variety of fiſh caught in this pariſh on the coaſt, and of an excellent quality, ſuch as haddocks, whitings, flounders of all kinds, roughback, plaiſe, ſole, halibut, turbot, ſkate, dog and cat fiſh. The lobſter and crab, and other ſpecies of cancer, are common; the lobſters formerly were more frequent, and purchaſed in great quantities for the London market; there are at preſent not above 4000 annually ſent from this pariſh. The

fiſhers

fiſhers complain of the difficulty of finding them, and are hired to fiſh for them, in other places in the *Murray Frith*, where they are more ſucceſsful, and where one man will gain from L. 20 to L. 30 Sterling during the fiſhing ſeaſon. The haddocks and cod are in abundance; great quantities of each are ſold freſh to ſupply the town and country at a conſiderable diſtance, and from 400 to 600 barrels are ſalted, and ſent from this pariſh to the *London* market every year. Great quantities of large cod and ling are catched in the ſpring on *Rattrayhead*, and on a bank which lies from 30 to 40 miles eaſt of this town. They are dried upon the rocks, and after ſupplying the demand in this part of the country, are ſent to the ſouth country, where they find a ready market, and deſervedly are in very high eſtimation. They ſell here from L. 1 to L. 1, 10s. the dozen; about 3 d. each pound; and are caught chiefly by the fiſhermen of Boddom. The greateſt part of the *cod's ſounds*, in this pariſh are permitted to remain and rot on the ſea beach, or are caſt into the dughill, though the uſe and value of them as an article of food and delicacy at table have been known here for many years. The crews of the ſhips that have been ſent from this town to Barryhead, preſerve the ſounds, tongues, and palates of the cod caught there, and the owners have always found a ready market for them. The haddocks are in ſeaſon and greateſt perfection in the months of May and December. Cod are good at any time of the year; of late the haddocks have been of a larger ſize than uſual; this ſeaſon they are very ſcarce.

From the dog fiſh a conſiderable quantity of oil is extracted; the fiſh is ſeldom eaten in this place, frequently bought to be caſt into the dunghill; a good number are carried into the country, and are reliſhed by ſome country people. The livers of twenty dog fiſh will produce one

Scotch

Scotch pint of oil, in value 1 s. Sterling, and the ſame number are ſold at three half pence, which are purchaſed to be carried to the country for food, or for the dunghill, and, properly mixed with earth, make an excellent manure. They are generally caught in the months of July and Auguſt, and employ the whole attention of fiſhermen at that time, ſo that ſcarce any other fiſh is caught. *Turbot* is now caught frequently, and in great perfection. Thirty years ago they were ſeldom uſed here, frequently caſt into the dunghill, or left to waſte on the ſea-beach. They at preſent ſell from 4 d. to 1 s. Sterling each, and are riſing every day in the price. This is one evidence of the ſtyle of living being much changed in this place. Greater quantities might ſtill be caught if eels were uſed for bait; the eels that are found here are ſometimes employed, and anſwer better than any other bait. The lamprey eels might be tried, which are found in England, and are purchaſed by the Dutch in large quantities, from whom many leſſons might be obtained in the article of fiſhing. They fiſh for cod on this coaſt every ſummer, and for herrings, which frequently are very numerous; but none are caught here by the natives of this place, though they are perfectly acquainted with the manner of catching them, and ſend ſeveral ſhips every year to the Hebrides for that purpoſe. Laſt year in the Murray Frith, within twenty miles of this place, herrings were in ſuch plenty, that children, ſitting on a rock on the ſhore, and dropping a line with two or three ſmall notched hooks faſtened at the end of the line, and pulling it up briſkly, caught the herrings by the belly in great numbers, which were ſold through the country at a very ſmall price. At that time I do not recollect to hear of a ſingle ſhip on the coaſt employed in catching them. The cat fiſh, though reckoned a delicacy by ſome people, is ſeldom uſed here. There are great varieties of gray

fiſh,

fiſh, called ſeaths, podlers and baddocks, which appear to be of one ſpecies. Mackarel is likewiſe found here in great perfection, and ſells from 1 d. to 2 d. each. They are generally caught with a white feather faſtened on a hook, the boat ſailing with a quick motion. The uſual bait for fiſh caught here, are haddocks, flounder, cod, ſand eels, limpets, log, ſhrimps, muſſels and crabs. The muſſels are brought from the Newburgh at the mouth of the Ythan, about fifteen miles from this place.

Fiſhing Towns.—There are two fiſhing-towns in this pariſh, the town of *Boddom* and the Ranheads in the town of Peterhead. In the ſea-town of *Boddom*, there are at preſent five boats which pay rent to the proprietor. Theſe employ thirty hands. There were lately ſix boats; one of them was loſt at ſea with four of the men; it has not ſince been replaced. Many of the young men of that town are now ſailors. There are beſides two ſmaller boats in town for the old men. The ſhore of Boddom is very rocky and high. The town is placed on the top of a precipice, a few feet only from the brink of it. There are ſix caves betwixt the town and the ſouthern boundary of this pariſh. Some of them are very high, and run in within the land ſixty yards; one of them is immediately below the town, and ſome of the houſes are above the arch. In the caves, vaſt numbers of pigeons and *cormorants* conſtantly reſide.

On the eſtate of Boddom are the veſtiges of ſome ſalt pans, ſalt having been manufactured there in the laſt century. The whole moſs of Boddom is ſaid to have been exhauſted by ſupplying fuel for making the ſalt; and *Satie's Head*, formerly mentioned as a head-land, forming the boundary of the bay of *Invernettie* on the north, is ſaid to have

have derived its names from being in the neighbourhood of the ſalt manufacture.

Sea Animals, Shells and Plants.—There are no remarkable ſea-animals. The ſeal, porpoiſe and ſtar-fiſh are to be found. There are ſome ſponges and coralines, and various kinds of ſhells, ſome of them beautifully turbinated. The ſea-plants are babby-ware, tangles, badderlocks and dilſe. The ware is uſed as a manure; from 40 to 50 tons of *kelp* are made annually and exported. Dilſe and badderlocks are reckoned a great delicacy by many people, particularly country people, who reſort here to the mineral well in great numbers in ſummer, and would not think the water could have any effect, if they did not eat them in great quantities.

Tide.—The tide flows from the north from Rattry-head in the pariſh of Crimond ſouth and ſouth-eaſt, and ebbs north and north-weſt. In ſpring tides it runs three miles and a half in an hour. In ſome places from head-lands cloſe in ſhore, there is a conſiderable variation, and currents in different directions, and only underſtood by the pilots, who are perfectly acquainted with them.

Light-houſes.—There are no light-houſes in this pariſh. I have often thought it would be of the greateſt benefit to ſhips if one was erected on the Stirling hill, which is a landmark in the day-time to ſhips at ſea; but I am informed by ſeafaring people, though it would be a proper place from that circumſtance, yet, from the frequent miſts at ſea, it would not eaſily be obſerved from ſo high a place; but there is little doubt of a light-houſe being uſeful, and even neceſſary, either on the *Keith Inch* in this pariſh, or on a ſmall eminence in *Broadland* oppoſite to *Rattry-head* in the

pariſh of *Crimond*, which is nearly half way betwixt this town and the light-houſe at *Kinnaird's* head, in the pariſh of *Fraſerburgh*, at the mouth of the *Murray* Frith. That light is probably of great ſervice to prevent ſhips being wrecked on Rattry-head which come from the north and down the Murray Frith; but ſhips ſailing to the northward are frequently wrecked on Rattry-head, or rocks near it, before it is poſſible for them to ſee the light-houſe at Kinnaird's head; and I have reaſon to think it will be found, that there have been as many, if not more wrecks from Rattry-head to the Buchanneſs ſince that light-houſe was erected, than at any period during the ſame length of time before it was eſtabliſhed.

Battles.—There is no tradition, or any account in hiſtory with which I am acquainted, of any battles in this pariſh, or ſea-fights near the coaſt. There is a tradition of a duel or accidental rencounter betwixt two men a long time ago. One of the parties was killed, and buried in the ſpot where he fell. This is not above two hundred yards diſtant from the manſe, and though placed in a fertile field, which has frequently been ploughed and trenched, the grave remains to this day untouched.

Forts and Moat.—There are two forts ſituate about two or three miles weſt of the town, both of ſmall extent. The moat, parapet, foot-bank, baſtions, *&c.* are very conſpicuous. One of them is called *Bowan's hillocks*, probably *Bowneſs*, from being erected when bows were uſed. The other is at *Mount Pleaſant*, directly oppoſite to the houſe of Inverugie, in the pariſh of St Fergus.

There is a ſmall moat on a little eminence, called the *Mete-hill*; a mound of earth evidently artificial, and

which probably in former times was a place for diſtributing juſtice during the feudal government.

Old Caſtles.—There are two old caſtles in the pariſh. 1*ſt*, Old Craig or Raven's Craig, formerly, and for a long time, the ſeat of a branch of the Mariſchal family. It ſtands on the ſouth ſide of the Ugie, in the north-weſt part of this pariſh. At a very diſtant period, it has been a place of very great ſtrength, and, before the introduction of gun-powder, could have reſiſted any attack. There are evident marks of the river having been carried round the houſe. The walls are very thick, and fortified round. Though daily mouldering, the greateſt part ſtill remains. Foxes lodge below the ruins, and ravens hatch their young on the top of the walls. Two finer ruins are ſcarce to be ſeen than the Raven's Craig in this pariſh, and Inverugie in the pariſh of St Fergus, on the oppoſite ſide of the river, about half a mile's diſtance. The eſtate and pariſh of St Fergus firſt belonged to the Cheynes, but the two caſtles by intermarriages became the property of the Mariſchal family *.

2*dly*,

* As the noble family of Mariſchal had, for many centuries, in their poſſeſſion the pariſhes of Peterhead and St Fergus, ſome account may be expected of them.

Cambden and Boethius ſay, that the family of Keith derive their origin from the Celti, a people bordering on the *Saltus Hireinus*, who gave the firſt check to the conqueſts of the Romans in the time of Auguſtus Cæſar, but being routed in the reign of his ſucceſſor Tiberius, part of them ſettled under their leader *Battus*, at the mouth of the Rhine, and from his name the country was called *Battavia*. In the reign of *Corbridus* II. ſurnamed *Goldus*, King of Scotland, the *Batavian Celti* ſent a colony to ſeek habitations in Britain, and ſome of them, whom *Fordune* calls *Celti Melibœi*, were driven upon the northern coaſts of Scotland, and ſettled in that part now called *Caithneſs*.

In

2*dly*, *Boddom Caſtle*, built a long time ago by a family of the name of Keith, a branch of the Mariſchal family, oppoſite

In the time of Malcolm II. who began his reign in 1004, a complete victory was obtained over the Danes, under the command of their General *Camus* at *Barry*, a few miles below *Dundee*. This victory is, by the Scotch hiſtorians, chiefly attributed to the valour of the *Celti*, under the command of Robert their leader, who is ſaid afterwards to have killed Camus in ſingle combat. In regard of ſo great ſervice, the King was pleaſed inſtantly to beſtow upon Robert the honour of knighthood, and created him Heritable Great Mariſchal of Scotland, (but not a Peer), which office his poſterity continued to enjoy until the attainder of George the 10th Earl Mariſchal in the 1715. The King beſtowed ſeveral lands on Robert, particularly ſome in Eaſt Lothian, called from his name and office Keith Mariſchal, and the ſmall iſland in the Forth, called Inch Keith. It is not very eaſy to ſay when the family became poſſeſſed of the eſtate of Raven's Craig in this pariſh; the houſe is ſuppoſed to have been built in the 12th century, and to have been inhabited by ſome of them till a connexion was formed by one of the family marrying a Miſs Cheyne, heireſs of Inverugie, in the pariſh of St Fergus.

Sir Robert Keith, Great Mariſchal, who is ſaid to be the thirteenth generation in a direct line from the above Sir Robert, was very inſtrumental in gaining the battle of *Inverurie*, which was the firſt victory King Robert Bruce obtained in 1308. The King rewarded his bravery, by beſtowing on him his own lands of *Hall-Foreſt* near to *Kintore*. At the Parliament holden in Perth 1320, the King gave him a conſiderable ſhare of the Earl of Buchan's eſtate, who had been forfeited for adhering to the Engliſh intereſt.

Sir Edward Keith, Great Mariſchal of Scotland, and grandſon of the laſt Sir Robert, had two ſons, *viz.* Sir Edward, who ſucceeded him, and Sir John Keith, who married *Mary Chein*, daughter and coheireſs of Sir *Reginald Chein* of Inverugie. John Keith had got from his father the lands of *Raven's Craig*, which then comprehended a conſiderable part of the pariſh of Peterhead; and he and his ſucceſſors are deſigned promiſcuouſly by the titles of Raven's Craig, Inverugie, and Craig Inverugie. John Keith's marriage with Miſs Chein ſeems to have been betwixt 1354 and 1360. In 1535, William 4th Earl Mariſchal married the eldeſt daughter of Sir William Keith of Inverugie, and by this marriage became proprietor of the eſtate of Inverugie, Raven's Craig, *&c.* The lands particularly deſigned in the pariſh of Peterhead as belonging to that family,

in

poſite to the town of Peterhead on the ſouth ſide of the bay, about 3 miles diſtance from the town. It ſtands on a promontory betwixt two very deep fiſſures, with high craggy rocks on each ſide, where the ſea rolls in a conſiderable way with great force, and ſuch impetuoſity when the wind blows from the eaſt, that the ſpray of the ſea is often carried over the top of the houſe; the chaſm on the north ſide is within a few feet of the houſe, which is built on the top of a precipice; the houſe is not inhabited, and is in ruins; the walls are ſtill remaining. It muſt appear ſtrange how ſuch a ſituation ſhould at firſt have been choſen, and yet ſuch ſituations are frequent on this coaſt. *Dunnoter*, (formerly a ſeat of the Earl Mariſchal), the old caſtle of *Slains*, *Slains Caſtle*, (ſeats of the family of Errol), and *Dundarg*, all ſtand on the brink of high rocks projecting into the ſea.

Boddom caſtle ſome time formerly may have been a fortreſs; there were ſeveral cannon remaining there lately, and there is one not yet removed. The houſe was inhabited about the beginning of this century.

Mill, and ſome Ruins.—There is a common meal mill, ſituate in an extenſive, romantic, ſolitary den, about 3 or

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in a charter granted to Sir Gilbert Keith of Inverugie in 1490, are ſaid to be "Terras de *Corſarſtown*, *Buckla*, *Scotſmill* et *Raven's Craig*." The lands of *Tortoiſtown*, probably the ſame with Corſarſtown, Scotſmill, and Raven's Craig, with the ſuperiority of the town of Peterhead, and ſome lands round it, which formerly belonged to the Abbey of Deer, were in poſſeſſion of the Mariſchal family till their forfeiture. The Mariſchal family were not raiſed to the Peerage till 1450, when William, Great Mariſchal of Scotland, was called by the King's writ (not by patent) to ſit in Parliament by the title of Lord Keith, and in 1451 by the title of Earl Mariſchal.

A more particular account of that family will be found in the Statiſtical Account of St Fergus, a neighbouring pariſh, where the caſtle of Inverugie is ſituate.

4 miles weſt of the town; the houſe containing the mill is built to a rock, and ſeems to be an object of conſiderable antiquity.

There are likewiſe the remains of an old building, ſituate upon a fertile hill, about a mile N. W. of the town of Peterhead; part of a wall ſtill remains, and a pavement of ſome extent overgrown with graſs. A neighbouring well ſtill retains the name of the *Abbot's Well.* Some well dreſſed ſtones, that have been evidently taken from the ruins, are obſervable in the adjacent buildings. Many ſlates have been dug up about the place, and a few coins, the inſcriptions of which were entirely obliterated; human bones have likewiſe been found incloſed in cells built of ſtone. There is no tradition to aſcertain preciſely what theſe ruins are; from the name of the well it is ſuppoſed to have been an Abbey. It is more probable it was the reſidence of ſome monks belonging to the Abbey of Deer, which had very extenſive property before the Reformation, and poſſeſſed a great part of this pariſh. The ruins of the Abbey are ſtill to be ſeen at Old Deer; ſeveral of their monks poſſeſſed extenſive farms at a diſtance, and ſome of them probably enjoyed the farm in this neighbourhood, and at the ſame time might have a place of worſhip and burial place; and if the *Abbot* occaſionally viſited them, or without this circumſtance, they might give to their well the name of the head of their order.

Natural Curioſities.—About two years ago, on digging for a well for the accommodation of the family at the manſe, at the depth of about 8 or 10 feet, a complete ſkeleton of a *deer* was found; the greateſt part of the ribs fell immediately to duſt on being expoſed to the air; the horns were more entire, and one of them is ſtill preſerved as a curioſity. One of my predeceſſors, who was ſettled here about

70 years ago, having reſided in his younger years in the high country, I ſuſpected the deer might have been ſent to him; his widow, however, who is ſtill alive, aſſured me a few weeks ago there was no ſuch animal ſent during his reſidence here. There is no doubt, at a very diſtant period, there were large woods in this pariſh, as roots of trees are found every day in the moſſes. It is very extraordinary, if it ſhould have remained entire for ſo long a time; and it is not eaſily to be explained, how an entire ſkeleton ſhould have been found, unleſs theſe animals once reſided here.

A pretty large piece of *amber* was lately found on the ſea-beach, a little below the manſe, and is at preſent in my cuſtody. This probably has floated hither from the Baltic, where amber was found in the days of *Tacitus*, and is ſtill to be got in conſiderable quantities. Camden mentions a piece of amber being found at the Buchanneſs in this pariſh, of ſo extraordinary a ſize as almoſt to ſtagger belief.

Mines and Quarries.—The hills on the S. and S. W. parts of the pariſh, if they deſerve that name, are covered with heath; there are no volcanic appearances in the pariſh, petrified parts of animals, or petrifying ſprings or waters; there are no coal-mines, lime, or ſlate quarries, but inexhauſtible quarries of excellent granite, of which all the houſes in the town of Peterhead are built, and great quantities exported to the London market, and for different parts in England; the granite admits of the fineſt poliſh, and lapidaries are frequently employed in forming it into various ſhapes for different pieces of furniture. There are ſome cryſtals found lodged in rocks of granite. Foſſil ſhells are found in great quantities 20 or 30 feet above the preſent level of the ſea; and it is remarkable that ſome of them are of a larger ſize than any that are now to be found

on

on the coaſt. There is great variety of pebbles to be found on the ſea-ſhore, very beautiful for ſhape, colour, and poliſh, and ſome of them of conſiderable value.

Peſt Ground.—In the end of laſt century the plague was in the town of Peterhead. The perſons infected with this diſeaſe were removed out of the town; temporary huts of timber were erected for their accommodation to the northward, betwixt the town and blockhouſe, on a piece of waſte ground, where the cattle of the feuers were paſtured; the people who died there were buried on the ſpot, and the houſes turned down and covered with earth; it was afterwards called the peſt-ground, and was never ploughed or touched, till about 20 years ago, when this common was diſponed as property to the feuers of Peterhead; it was then trenched, and ſeveral pieces of timber were found not conſumed; ſome timorous people were under apprehenſions that bad effects might have enſued from breaking up this ground.

Pits.—On the remoteſt extremity of this pariſh, on the ſouth ſide of the *Sadle-hill* of Invernettie, oppoſite to the Den of Boddom, (which lies betwixt the Sadle and Stirling-hill), there are a number of *pits* caſt up along the brae, without any order, of ſuch a ſize as to contain 3 or 4 perſons. By tradition they are the *Paights* or *Picts* houſes, and the people in the neighbourhood believe the Picts, who they imagine were of a diminutive ſize, dwelt there; but this appears incredible; and it is more probable, that in the time of incurſions by the Danes, of which there are certain accounts in the neighbouring pariſh of Cruden, ſome of them had entrenched themſelves there for a ſhort time, in order to be concealed, for which the place is extremely proper, as to this day no dwelling-houſe is in ſight

of

of it; on the ſouth ſide there is an impaſſable moraſs, and formerly it probably was inacceſſible on all ſides. A gentleman who has ſeen theſe, ſays, he has ſeen in Ireland pits ſomewhat ſimilar, near the high-roads, where poor people came out with their children begging for charity; but theſe pits never could have been formed for that purpoſe, as no high-road is near them, nor any apparent inducement for their reſidence there.

Meteors and Hurricane.—On the 10th of November 1766, when aſſiſting at the communion at St Fergus, a neighbouring pariſh about 5 miles to the N. W. of this place, I obſerved in the evening a very extraordinary appearance in the air; looking to the S. E. about a mile from the church, there was the appearance of a light ſomewhat like the *aurora borealis*. The rays gradually became more vivid and ſtationary, ſeeming like a gleam of fire, extending about a quarter of a mile from E. to W. It continued for ſeveral hours, and then diſappeared. I have never heard of ſuch a phenomenon in this country, though I am informed it is frequently obſerved in the Weſt Indies.

In January 1773, there was a remarkable high wind, which truly might have been called a hurricane, it unroofed many houſes here, and in ſeveral pariſhes at ſome diſtance from this place, deſtroyed a great number of trees, which were old, and of a large ſize; many were torn up from the roots, and ſome entirely ſplit. At the manſe of Peterhead it did conſiderable damage; the ſlates were torn off the houſe; the top of the peat-ſtack beat into duſt like powder; the ricks in the corn-yard turned down, and ſheaves carried to the diſtance of ſome hundred yards; a hay-rick, in the form of an oblong ſquare, was cut through the middle as with a knife, from one end to the other. The wind blew from the S. W.

In

In 1783, the meteor ſo generally taken notice of was obſerved here. I was from home, about 20 miles from this town, in a chaiſe, after ſunſet, when there was a thick fog; a ſudden light came into the chaiſe like a flaſh of lightning. The lunar rainbow, which by ſome people is reckoned a rare object, has been frequently obſerved here.

Land Animals.—There are no quadrupeds or birds peculiar to this pariſh; a few, however, may be mentioned. There are, beſides domeſtic animals, the fox, polecat, otter, weaſel, hare, mole, ground mice, and water rats; I have never heard of a badger being ſeen here, though I am not certain but they may be found, as I once ſaw one which was killed in the pariſh of Longſide, a few miles from this place.

Birds.—The cuckoo, lapwing, corn-rail, woodcock, fieldfare, bat, blackbird, and ſwallow, make their appearance regularly once in the year at different ſeaſons. I once ſaw, in the end of the year, 2 or 3 woodpeckers, but they were never obſerved afterwards. There are various ſpecies of hawks, and a few owls; an eagle was once killed in this pariſh, the only one I have heard of being obſerved during my reſidence here; ſwans ſometimes paſs over the town, but do not ſettle here; wild-geeſe are very frequently to be found in the pariſh during the autumn and winter; when an intenſe froſt has ſet in for ſome time, vaſt flocks of wild-geeſe, of a ſmaller ſize than what are commonly found here, paſs over the bay of Peterhead in one direction, halfway betwixt the manſe and the town of Peterhead, one flock ſucceeding another, during the greateſt part of the day; they all paſs to the northward, but where they ſettle at that time is uncertain; it is ſuppoſed they go to ſome *lochs* in the Highlands, which never freeze. Solan geeſe

do not reſide here, but are frequently to be ſeen, and are often caught with bait. There is a great variety of other ſea-fowl, which are common on the eaſt coaſt. Great numbers of wild-duck, are to be found in the pariſh; muirfowl are to be got in the moors; partridges, ſnipes, and plovers are in great plenty; the ſmaller birds, which are to be found in neighbouring pariſhes, are numerous. The cuckoo and corn-rail generally appear in the months of April and May, and are ſeldom heard after the month of Auguſt. The lapwing generally arrives in February or March, and leaves this country in the end of autumn; lapwings of late have been obſerved to reſide in this part of the country all winter; the woodcock makes his appearance about the end of harveſt; they arrive here very lean, and in a few days become very fat; there can be little doubt of their coming from Norway and the eaſt country; they are generally obſerved firſt on the eaſt coaſt. If there be any doubts of their coming from the eaſt country, they may be removed by a fact, of which I was informed by a gentleman of veracity. About 50 years ago, he was in company with one of the proprietors of the loch of Strathbeg, about 10 miles north of this place, in the pariſh of Lonmay, which at that time was intended to be drained, and which they had been ſurveying. In the evening, after ſunſet, before it was quite dark, he heard a great noiſe, like the fluttering of a flock of birds, and ſaw ſomething like a cloud before him; on examining more particularly, he found a very large flock of woodcocks perfectly exhauſted, and not able to ſtir from the place where they had ſettled; they were likewiſe entirely emaciated.

A few weeks ago, during the ſevereſt part of the winter, (1795), I obſerved a ſtrange bird, which I had never ſeen here before; it was about the ſize of a corn-rail, had a long bill, with long legs, ſome red ſpots on its head, the

plumage of a corn-rail, with a ſhort tail. The froſt was very intenſe, and it ſeemed to wiſh to take ſhelter about the offices of the manſe; it did not fly, but ran ſo faſt that I could not catch it.

Population.—In conſidering the number of people in this pariſh, I include the town as well as the country. The population of each at different periods is as follows:

1764.	Town of Peterhead, males, -	530	
	Ditto, females, - -	736	
			1266
1764.	Country, males, - -	553	
	Ditto, females, - -	601	
			1154
	Total in the pariſh, - -		2420
1764.	Families in town, - -		361
	Ditto in country, - -		262
	Total families *, - -		623
1764.	Epiſcopals in town, - -		500
	Ditto in country, - -		142
	Total Epiſcopals, - -		642

N. B. In the ſea-town of Boddom, which is part of the country population, there were, families, 41; males, 80; females, 94; total, 174.

1769.	Town of Peterhead, males, -	640	
	Ditto, females, - -	878	
			1518
1769.	Country, males, - -	589	
	Ditto, females, - -	599	
			1188
Total in the pariſh, - -			2706
			1769.

* By families is not meant houſes; for in many houſes, in the town particularly, there are ſeveral families.

1769.	Families in town, - -	413
	Families in country, - -	276
	Total families, - - -	689
1769.	Episcopals in town, - -	553
	Ditto country, - - -	147
	Total Episcopals, - - -	700

N. B. In the sea-town of Boddom, always reckoned part of the country, in 1769, there were 93 males, and 92 females, total 185; familes 45. In the whole parish there were about 346, under 7 or 8 years of age.

In the town of Peterhead in 1790, the population was as follows:

1790.	Town of Peterhead, males, -	1097
	Ditto, females, - -	1453
	Total in the town, - -	2550
Under the age of 2 years, - -		104
From 2 to 5, - - -		165
From 5 to 10, - - -		272
From 10 to 20, - - -		502
From 20 to 30, - - -		368
From 30 to 40, - - -		320
From 40 to 50, - - -		350
From 50 to 60, - - -		209
From 60 to 70, - - -		175
From 70 to 80, - - -		59
80, and upwards, - - -		26
Total, - - - -		2550

There

There was alive in 1790, and ſhe is not yet dead, a poor woman, who declared ſhe was then 105 years old, and a few days ago told me ſhe was now 109 years of age. This declaration appears to be ſufficiently authenticated from anſwers ſhe gives to queſtions reſpecting paſt events, and other collateral circumſtances. She is by no means decrepit, as one might naturally expect; ſhe ſtill continues to travel through the country as a beggar, and ſays, the only uneaſineſs ſhe feels, is a ſmall degree of wearineſs from carrying her meal bag, which is generally pretty full. She has the appearance of being only betwixt 70 and 80 years of age. When the laſt liſt of the inhabitants of the town of Peterhead in 1790 was taken, there were two perſons from 90 to 95 years of age, one perſon of 87, one of 86, two of 85, and 21 from 80 to 85. In the ſame liſt the females exceed the males 336; that is, they are nearly as 13¼ to 10. The number of houſes was about 500.

The population in the country part of the pariſh in 1794 was as follows:

1794.	Males, - - -	518
	Females, - - -	623
Total in the country,	- -	1141

In the ſea-town of Boddom, always conſidered as part of the country, there were, females 106, males 86, total 192. Families in the country 259; of which, in the ſea-town of Boddom there were 49. From the rapid progreſs of manufactures in the town of Peterhead ſince 1790, I ſuppoſe there is at preſent in the whole pariſh about 4100.

Dr Webſter's account in 1755 *queſtionable.*—I find in Dr Webſter's report in 1755, the inhabitants of this pariſh are reckoned to be 2487. I have great doubts of this being accurate, and therefore have not ſtated it in my account of the

the population at different periods. When I was ſettled in 1763, I never heard of any liſt being taken by Dr Webſter; and when I viſited my pariſh next year, and took an accurate liſt both of the town and country, many in the pariſh were much offended at me; they had never heard of ſuch a thing being done before, and compared my conduct to the ſin of David in numbering the people. I ſhould not have apprehended there would have been a great increaſe in the population, but there is no reaſon to ſuppoſe there would have been 60 people fewer in 1764 than in 1755, unleſs the long continuance of the war ſhould have had any influence in diminiſhing the numbers in the pariſh. If Dr Webſter calculated the number of the pariſhoners from the regiſter of baptiſms, I am certain there were no ſufficient data on which he could proceed.

Religious Sects.—In the liſts of 1764 and 1769, which were accurately taken by myſelf, by viſiting every family in the pariſh, there were no Diſſenters from the *Eſtabliſhed* Church but Epiſcopals, that perſuaſion for a long time was the prevailing mode of religion in this pariſh, and it is ſtill profeſſed by the wealthieſt inhabitants of the town. They were all then of the Scotch Epiſcopal Church; ſince that time they are divided into Scotch and Engliſh Epiſcopals. From two notes, which I have received from the miniſters of both theſe congregations, I find there is at preſent nearly 1100 Epiſcopals. Since 1769, there were a few Roman Catholics in the pariſh for a few years; there are none at preſent with whom I am acquainted. Somewhat more than 20 years ago, a Seceder meeting-houſe was erected about 8 or 9 miles from this place; ſince that time a few Seceders have been in this pariſh, but they are not at preſent numerous; I really do not know their preciſe number, nor could I eaſily aſcertain it; a church was built by them

a few years ago; they have worſhip there frequently, and a congregation is collected from different pariſhes; but in ſo far as I can diſcover, it has made little impreſſion on the members of the Eſtabliſhed Church here, who are more numerous than at any former period, if one can judge from the number of communicants, the regular progreſſive increaſe of the collections for the poor every Lord's day, and the numerous complaints for want of room in the church, which is now far from being ſufficient for thoſe who wiſh to attend public worſhip there, and many are obliged to take ſeats elſewhere, for want of room in the church. There have been at different times attempts to collect a congregation by Bereans and Methodiſts, but they have hitherto failed. In general I believe it will be found, there is leſs of animoſity from a difference of religious ſentiments in this pariſh, than in moſt pariſhes that are ſo populous, opulent, commercial, and in particular where ſo many manufactures are eſtabliſhed.

Valued and real Rent.—The valued rent of this pariſh is L. 4525 : 11 : 8 Scotch money. The real rent is not eaſily aſcertained; I think it is from L. 2800 to L. 3000 Sterling, and is much more than double of what it was 30 years ago.

Farming.—There is a conſiderable alteration on the mode of farming during that period. Forty years ago, excepting about the town of Peterhead, there was no ſown graſs; turnips and potatoes were not cultivated, and were brought by ſhipmaſters as rarities to their families from *Norway* and *Ireland*. For ſome years paſt it has been common to export, of one crop, 1000 bolls of potatoes to *Norway* and England from this pariſh.

About the town of Peterhead crops of ſown graſs have been raiſed for theſe laſt 40 years; the mode of manage-

ment

ment at firſt, and many years afterwards, was very particular; a perſon was engaged at the rate of 10 s. to mow and cure an acre of graſs. There was a great deal of work employed in this operation; it required four days to mow the graſs; it was permitted to lie in the ſwarth ſeveral days, afterwards carefully expoſed to the ſun for a conſiderable time, and then put into ſmall cocks; theſe were turned over regularly every other fair day, to baſk in the ſun, ſeveral weeks paſſed before it was thought out of danger, and then put into a rick, or carried to the corn-yard. This practice continued till Dr Anderſon's method of curing hay was publiſhed; ſince that time there are many inſtances of large fields of hay being entirely out of danger in the courſe of eight days, after beginning to mow the graſs, without any expoſure to the ſun, exeepting what is unavoidable in reducing the number of cocks. I wiſh I could ſay the practice was univerſal. There are many inſtances which might be mentioned of good farming in this pariſh, both by the proprietors and farmers, at ſome particular times; and in many places the land is in a very high ſtate of cultivation. At preſent I ſee no ſteady plan of good huſbandry, and in particular no proper rotation of crops; there is not an acre of wheat nor of lint in the pariſh; very little fallow, and very little expence beſtowed on liming or dunging, though both lime and dung may be had in ſufficient quantity, and on moderate terms, compared with thoſe in other places.

Thirty years ago perſons were hired to carry the dung of the town of Peterhead to the ſea; it was conſidered as a nuiſance, and might have been obtained by any farmer without paying any price for it; it has for many years been purchaſed at a pretty high price, and ſome of it carried into neighbouring pariſhes; but ſtill there is a great deal neglected, and caſt into the ſea.

It

It will naturally be enquired how this ſhould happen. The firſt obſtacle is prejudice; the ſecond, poverty; the third, manufactures; and the fourth, the heritors not reſiding on their eſtates, granting proper leaſes, nor looking out for ſome tenants of experience, enterpriſe, and wealth, who might ſet an example to thoſe around them. The greateſt part of the tenants are natives of this pariſh, bred as farmers by their parents, who, from the lowneſs of their rents, were enabled to ſupport their families, and pay their rents with the old mode of farming; and they ſeldom think of looking farther than the preſent time, to provide ſomething for their family, or againſt any diſaſter that may befal them; the rents have been raiſed, and with difficulty are paid by the preſent tenants, not, in my opinion, by the produce of their crops, but by the money received for manufactures by the females in their families, an accidental high price for cattle for ſeveral years, and employing their horſes to lead peats to the town of Peterhead in ſummer, when they might be more properly employed in fallowing a few acres of their farm, and carrying lime and dung. The truth is, a great part of the beſt land in this pariſh requires a great deal of lime and dung, from the ſtiffneſs and nature of the ſoil, to make it mellow, and fit to produce proper crops; but when this is done, it will produce as weighty crops as any land in the country, and may be very productive by a proper rotation of crops for many years, without receiving any manure.

There are a conſiderable number of fields in ſown graſs in the pariſh; the crops are generally oats, bear, (no barley), peaſe or beans, or peaſe and beans mixed together.

The lands, unleſs when broken up out of ley, are dunged for bear; afterwards two crops of oats are taken, ſometimes a crop of peaſe, and then dunged for bear; formerly there was a great quantity of ſmall oats ſown; this is moſtly

given up. There are ſtill ſome brocked oats, but there is now more attention paid to the nature of the ſeed; Blainſlie, and what is called the Chief Baron's oats are in repute, and frequently purchaſed for ſeed.

There are a great number of *bawks* in the pariſh which remain untouched; 30 years ago, on an eſtate within a mile of the town of Peterhead, I am informed it was an article in the leaſes of the tenants not to break them up. They were called *meadow* ground, and their cattle paſtured on them in ſummer. There are a number of incloſures, moſtly of earthen fences, with a ditch in the inſide, which is found with ſome attention to be a ſufficient fence.

There are ſome earthen fences, with a thorn-hedge. The thorns are much neglected; I have no doubt of their thriving here with proper attention. There are a few inſtances of the thorns being a complete defence, without the leaſt attention being paid to them ſince they were planted. There are ſeveral with ſtone dikes on one gentleman's eſtate, who at one time was at conſiderable pains in improving his farm. About the town of Peterhead, and in ſome other parts of the pariſh, there are a conſiderable number of incloſures, partly of ſtone, and partly an earthen fence, called here a half dike; but where ſtones can eaſily be had, they are the completeſt fence, and in many reſpects preferable to any other mode of incloſing. Earthen fences can be built from 2 d. to 3 d. *per* yard; faced with ſtone, four feet high, 6 d.; complete ſtone fences of the ſame height at 1 s. Sterling.

The ſize of the farms is ſo various, that it is not eaſy to aſcertain what may be the average rent. They are in general from L. 2 to L. 50 or L. 60 Sterling. There are only three above L. 100, and one farmer pays rent nearly to the extent of L. 200. Theſe large farms are not under the immediate management of the principal tackſmen; and to an intelligent farmer, nothing will more quickly convey a juſt idea

idea of the ſtate of agriculture in this pariſh, than the irregular ſize of the farms, which are determined more by local circumſtances, than a general ſpirit for improvement.

Rent of Land.—In the country part of the pariſh I do not think there is any eſtate which yields above 12 s. at an average *per* acre, and there are not many that can be eſtimated at 10 s. The lands in the vicinity of the town of Peterhead let at from L. 1, 10 s. to four guineas each acre. Here there is a ſpur to induſtry, and in conſequence great exertions are made, and very weighty crops are raiſed, particularly of potatoes, bear, and graſs. There is ſcarce a day-labourer or manufacturer who does not raiſe potatoes, by taking a few falls of ground, from 4 d. to 1 s. each fall, trenching and hoeing the ground, and taking up the potatoes, with his own hands. He is employed about this work, after he has ſpent the day at his ordinary employment, which tends to promote his health, gives a wholeſome nouriſhment to his family, and enables him to go on at his ſedentary buſineſs at home with more animation and ſpirit. In conſequence of the general attention beſtowed on raiſing potatoes, I think the manner of managing that crop is as well underſtood here, as in any other part of the kingdom, and as weighty crops are raiſed as in any other place. The ground is generally trenched out of ley, ſometimes after it has carried one crop of oats, without any manure; by frequent hoeing, the weeds are kept down in ſummer, and the potatoes are taken up with a ſpade. The expence of the management of one acre, excluſive of rent and ſeed, is not leſs than five guineas; but it is not uncommon to have above 50 bolls, of 32 ſtone Dutch weight each boll, from an acre. An ordinary crop is eſtimated at 40 bolls, which are generally ſold at 8 s. *per* boll; and I am acquainted with repeated inſtances of eight acres in one perſon's poſ-

ſeſſion

ſeſſion yielding a crop in that proportion. The potatoe moſt cultivated here is the kidney, planted at the diſtance of 12 inches each way, ſometimes 10 and 12 inches. Sometimes they are liable to the *curl*, but not frequently.

There is always an excellent crop of bear and graſs immediately after the potatoes; the graſs frequently fails the ſecond and third year, but the ground may be afterwards trenched for potatoes; and with a rotation of the ſame crops, the ſame proceſs continued for many years, without any more dung or lime, where the land has been previouſly brought into good order by proper tilth and manure; at leaſt I have ſeen this fairly tried in different fields, without the ground being injured. The common practice is, to trench out of ley for potatoes, the next crop bear, and the third crop graſs; a judicious farmer, however, recommends from his own experience, to take firſt a crop of oats out of ley; next a crop of potatoes, and then ſow bear and graſs-ſeeds, and by this means he thinks the graſs will remain longer. In conſequence of this advice, I have tried one field in this manner; the graſs had an excellent appearance laſt autumn, after the bear was cut down, and bids fair for a good crop next ſeaſon, and confirming the obſervation I have received.

Turnips, before potatoes were introduced, were ſown, and the next crop bear and graſs-ſeeds; on the lands, within two miles of the town of Peterhead, they are not found in general to anſwer; there is ſometimes a full crop of turnips, but the bear crop generally fails; this is imputed to poaching the ground in carrying off the turnips, which is probably the caſe, as the clay being near the ſurface, the water ſtands in pools all winter, and chills the ground; perhaps by a careful hand pulling the turnips, and carrying them off the field, this inconvenience might be obviated; this however has not been tried.

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In a word, a general mode of good huſbandry being introduced, muſt depend upon the proprietors of the land giving long leaſes, encouragement for houſes and improvements, parcelling out their farms in proper lots, (for without this there can be no proper rotation of crops), aboliſhing thirlage to their mills, which is the moſt injudicious tax on improvement that ever was introduced, and introducing two or three ſubſtantial farmers from the Lothians, or Carſe of Gowrie, on their own terms, who would ſoon convince their neighbours by their example, of the great improvement that may be made in this pariſh, as the ſoil is excellent, and there is eaſy acceſs to manures of every kind.

It muſt be acknowledged there are ſtrong reaſons for this plan not having been adopted hitherto; many of the heritors have but moderate incomes; they cannot afford to lower their rents; they are ready to accept of the higheſt offer; the preſent tenants are unwilling to relinquiſh the place of their nativity, and promiſe a rent which is more than they can eaſily pay, from the old mode of farming; but which, by the money acquired from manufactures, and letting out their horſes, they continue to practiſe, and ſtruggle with poverty, and the difficulty of ſupporting their credit; but there are, and have been more opulent proprietors, who have ſeldom ſhown any inclination to introduce ſome farmers capable of ſetting a good example, with ſuch encouragement as would induce and enable them to ſettle in this pariſh. In the neighbourhood of the town of Peterhead, there are crops of bear from 12 to 16 bolls *per* acre; eight bolls, however, is reckoned a great crop. There are inſtances of from 300 to 450 ſtone weight of hay (20 lb. Dutch each ſtone) produced from one acre; 200 ſtone is reckoned a good crop; 50 buſhels of rye-graſs ſeed are frequently produced from one acre; I am likewiſe acquainted with

with 63 ſtone weight of ſkutched lint being produced from one acre. There is, however, a great prejudice againſt this crop in this pariſh; it is thought to exhauſt the ſoil more than any other crop. The expences are heavy, from few perſons being acquainted with the different parts of the management of it; and there is no lint-mill within ſix miles of the town.

It is not eaſily ſettled what may be the average from one acre of oats in the pariſh; I ſcarcely think it can be called four bolls; from ſix to eight bolls is reckoned a very weighty crop; but there are many fields ſown with oats, which do not pay ſeed and labour. One farmer in this pariſh, who has lately taken a large farm of above 230 acres, and has at preſent above 100 acres in his own poſſeſſion, candidly told me a few weeks ago, that from 12 bolls of oats which he ſowed laſt crop, (and that crop was in general very rich elſewhere), there was only produced 20 bolls, and of crop 1793, he had not three returns. The ſoil in general, however, is calculated to produce weighty crops of oats, and of a good quality, and will ſeldom fail to do it, unleſs when injured by previous bad management. A gentleman, who had a ſmall eſtate within three miles of the town, broke up a field of ley, which had been limed about 12 or 14 years ago, and had carried ſome crops of grain after it was limed; he took three crops of oats ſucceſſively without any manure; and in 1793, from the field, which conſiſts of ſix acres, he reaped 60 bolls; it was not ſown down with graſs-ſeeds, but laſt year he drew above L. 1 each acre for the natural graſs, great part of which was ſo luxuriant as to be cut for hay. I do not mention this with a view to recommend the mode of management, but to ſhew the nature of the ſoil.

I am likewiſe acquainted with another ſmall field, about two miles from the town, the produce of which, with the rotation

rotation of crops, I had often obſerved with ſurpriſe, and had at firſt ſet down from recollection, but which I now inſert in the words of the tenant, who is ſtill alive, and gave me the account in writing: "On my farm there was a "field of four acres, which, for 25 years during my reſi- "dence there, yielded alternately full crops of grain, *viz.* "beans, bear, and oats, without any manure; I have rea- "ſon to think my predeceſſor, for 5 or 7 years immediate- "ly before my entry, employed it in the ſame manner." The number of bolls from each acre was never aſcertained, but the field always attracted my attention, as producing the richeſt crop in the neighbourhood, before any improvement was made on the lands near the town of Peterhead.

In a word, I am ſatisfied the greateſt part of the pariſh is capable of the higheſt degree of cultivation, and I hope ſoon ſhall arrive at it.

Sea-ſand has only begun to be tried laſt year; on the ſea-coaſt, to the northward, for upwards of 24 miles, it has been uſed for ſome time with great ſucceſs, and is even preferred to lime; it may truly be called ſhell-ſand, and is more calcareous than what is found on the ſhore in this pariſh.

It is not poſſible to aſcertain the preciſe quantity of grain raiſed in this pariſh; I am apt to think it is not ſufficient for the ſubſiſtence of the inhabitants.

Gardening is in its infancy, and is making very ſlow progreſs.

Conſiderable attention is paid to the *dairy* by ſeveral perſons in the pariſh, though in general little attention is paid to the breed of the cows. There are a few of an excellent ſhape, and they give large quantities of milk, from 8 to 12 pints each. Six pints, I am apt to think, is more than the average from the cows in the pariſh. There is butter and cheeſe of an excellent quality, the butter gives from 6 d. to 8 d. the lb. 20 ounces Dutch, or nearly 22

ounces

ounces Engliſh, being the ancient Scotch trone pound; cheeſe from 3 s. to 5 s. the ſtone, 20 lb. Dutch each ſtone. I know of three cows for ſeveral weeks one ſummer, yielding each of them daily 1 lb. of butter, 16 ounces Dutch each pound; and of one cow, which calved about Chriſtmas, yielding 11 lb. of butter in five days, the pound conſiſting of 16 ounces; ſhe gave from 8 to 9 pints of milk, and was fed with hay and cabbage. A farmer, who has an extenſive farm, and is very attentive to his dairy, informs me, that with good management "A cow will, "during the ſummer, be worth about L. 5 Sterling. I "have ſeven cows, which give about 8 pints of milk each "day, and yield me profit in that proportion."

Leaſes.—The leaſes are in general for 19 years; ſome for that period, and the life of the tenant; there are a few for two or three nineteen years, with one or two lives. On the farms, which have the longeſt leaſes, the lands are in the higheſt ſtate of cultivation.

Planting.—There is very little planting in the pariſh. There are ſome trees at Invernettie and Little Cocklaw; ſome young timber at Alehouſehill, Blackhouſe, and Grange. At the manſe, within 200 or 300 yards of the ſea, there is a thriving plantation of elder and willows lately raiſed. I ſhould not have mentioned this trifling circumſtance if I had any merit in raiſing the plantation; laſt year there was a ſhoot of elder, the growth of the ſummer, of five feet in length. It would add much to the ornament of this country, if heritors would be at ſome pains in raiſing ſuch trees as are ſuited to the climate; formerly there were large foreſts in the pariſh.

Ploughs.

Ploughs.—The pariſh was formerly divided into 52 *ploughgates*, or, I ſuppoſe, into as many diviſions as 52 ploughs could eaſily manage in the old ſtyle of farming. At preſent, in the town and country, I do not think they exceed 90, though this cannot be eaſily aſcertained.

There are a few Engliſh ploughs drawn by two horſes, or two oxen; in general four, ſometimes ſix horſes, are employed in dragging a Scotch plough; many ploughs are drawn often by two horſes, with a cow and a young ſteer; I have even ſeen, and I obſerved it laſt year, a plough with one horſe, a cow and a young ſteer.

Harrows, Fanners, and Carts.—There are a few drag-harrows. Till lately, many ſingle harrows were uſed with timber tynes. They are ſtill in general too light for the ſoil.

There are no threſhing-machines. Fanners have been lately introduced, and are now pretty numerous.

The carts in general are very ſmall, and of a bad conſtruction. A boll of coals, weighing 36 ſtone Dutch weight, is reckoned a ſufficient load for one horſe and cart when hired. There are a few carts of a better conſtruction.

Horſes, Cattle, Sheep, and Hogs.—There are in the whole pariſh about 400 horſes, for the purpoſes of ploughing, riding, and carriages; 900 cattle, and 590 ſheep; the ſheep are moſtly on the confines of the moor and moſs, and have a very ſcanty paſture. In ſummer, a few ewes and lambs are kept on tether, ſcattered through the pariſh, and excellently fed. Horſes are generally of a ſmall ſize, and there are few in the pariſh of conſiderable value.

Excepting what is fed at the mills, hogs are very rare in the pariſh.

Reſident Heritors.—The number of proprietors at preſent, beſides the feuers in the town of Peterhead, is eleven; there are five of theſe reſiding in the pariſh. The Governors of the Merchant Maiden Hoſpital at Edinburgh have conſiderably more than one-third of the rent of the pariſh; and three of the reſiding heritors have not much above L. 100 rent.

The greateſt part of this pariſh belonged once to the ancient family of the Earl Mariſchal; at preſent, his repreſentatives poſſeſs no property here. There is not an eſtate which has remained in the family of any perſon, who had lands in the beginning of this century, excepting part of the lands of *Invernettie*, half of which is the property of a collateral branch of the original purchaſer from Earl Mariſchal in the beginning of this century, and one ſmall eſtate called *Downie-hills*, which was originally a *wadſet* from the Mariſchal family, and now the abſolute property of Dr Thomas Livingſton, phyſician at Aberdeen, who, by his mother, is the repreſentative of an ancient family of the name of Robertſon, which long enjoyed this eſtate; and one of them of the name of Thomas, about 60 or 70 years ago, the fifteenth Thomas Robertſon, who poſſeſſed the *wadſet*, writes a ſong to be found in the ſecond volume of *Allan Ramſay's* Collection, in which he invites the *Stirling*, the name of his miſtreſs, to take up her reſidence there, concluding with the following lines:

I'll bring thee where I will deviſe
Such various ways to pleaſure thee,
The velvet ſog thou wilt deſpiſe,
When on the *downy hills* with me.

(Signed) T. R.

Excepting

Excepting the Governors of the Merchant Maiden Hoſpital, who as a corporate ſociety, are ſuppoſed never to die, there is only at preſent one heritor, the Earl of Aberdeen, alive, and poſſeſſing the ſame eſtate he enjoyed when I was ſettled in this pariſh about 30 years ago.

Sic tranſit gloria mundi!

Roads.—The roads are not kept in good repair; the ſtatute-labour appears to be inſufficient for that purpoſe; and good roads are ſcarce to be expected till turnpikes are introduced.

Crops 1782, 1784.—The crop of 1782 was as defective in this pariſh as in other parts of Scotland; and without very great efforts, both of a public and private nature, many would have periſhed for want of food.

Beſides a large quantity of meal and ſeed-oats, imported by the inhabitants of the town of Peterhead, and ſold at prime coſt, with a conſiderable quantity of meal ſent by Government, partly *gratis*, and partly at a low price, there was taken from a ſmall capital of the poor's funds L. 20 Sterling; collections were made in the different churches, and voluntary aſſeſſments raiſed from the greateſt part of the heritors; amounting in whole to L. 110 : 6 : 5 Sterling, which was diſtributed by a committee of the different heritors, who had aſſeſſed themſelves, the miniſters of the different churches, and the elders of the town, to 223 families, conſiſting of 566 perſons, in different proportions, to the extent of 1 s. Sterling to each family weekly, till a ſupply was obtained from the next crop.

There was no perſon who died of famine, nor did any appear to have ſuffered in their health; on the contrary, the ſobriety and induſtry that were indiſpenſably requiſite

quiſite in many families to procure the neceſſaries of life, rendered complaints of bad health much leſs frequent than uſual.

Some diſcoveries were made in conſequeuce of the late harveſt and ſcanty crop of 1782.

Bear was ſown earlier than uſual in 1783, that there might be acceſs to the crop as ſoon as poſſible; inſtead of ſowing that grain as formerly in the month of May, it was ſown in the end of March and beginning of April; the practice has ſince continued, and it is thought to be, both as to the quantity and quality of the grain, an advantage, when the ground is in good order and free from weeds. During the month of April, there is a ſufficiency of moiſture in the ſoil; but in the month of May, particularly the latter part of it, when the drought is ſevere, the greateſt part of the ſeed often remains in the ground without ſpringing till the later rains, which frequently do not fall till the middle or end of July, in conſequence of which the crop is very defective, and unequally ripened; when there is ſufficient moiſture in the ground, it is not reckoned too late to ſow bear on the laſt days of the month of May, but this is uncertain, and it is of great importance to obſerve the proper ſeaſon for ſowing bear, which does not meet with that attention which it deſerves.

From a courſe of experiments made by Dr Anderſon on different ſpecies of grain of crop 1782, he found that oats when freſh, though only half-ripened, if once they germinate, will produce as weighty crops as oats fully ripened.

In this pariſh there was a field in 1782, which produced from 20 to 30 bolls of oats, which were not froſted, but were never fully ripened; they continued always green, and were cut down in the end of November, with their colour very little changed. The greateſt part of them was ſold for ſeed-oats, nearly at the ſame price with oats fully ripened.

ripened, and imported from England. A gentleman in the neighbourhood, who was always attentive to the intereſt of his tenants, by the advice of his overſeer, purchaſed about 18 bolls of theſe oats for his eſtate, and afterwards came on purpoſe to thank the perſon who ſold them, for the freſh oats his tenants had received, which, he ſaid, had anſwered better than what had the appearance of being much riper and fuller, but which had ſuffered from the froſt. Part of the ſame oats were ſown in this pariſh, and there was no apparent difference of produce next crop, between them and oats of the beſt quality that had been imported from England; they were only ſown a little thicker than other oats. Two or three bolls of them were ſent to the mill, and a boll ſcaree yielded five pecks of meal.

This ſtrongly ſhows the fallacy of arguing *a priori* in any thing relative to agriculture, as well as in other branches of natural philoſophy. It is not ſuppoſed, that ſuch oats will be preferred for ſeed in ordinary years; but in years of ſcarcity, and ſimilar to 1782, the fact deſerves attention.

There were ſome peculiarities in crop 1784, which deſerve being mentioned. During the ordinary ſeaſon for ſowing oats, which is from the beginning of March to the end of April, there were conſtant ſhowers of rain; the fields were never dry; the greateſt part of the farmers delayed ſowing till the ſeed-time was nearly elapſed; the grain was ſown, but the rains continuing, the greateſt part was never covered with mould, the ground being much poached with the horſes and cattle in attempting, and barely attempting to harrow it; and great fears were entertained concerning the crop. The ſeed, however, that was not covered, from the great moiſture, all germinated, and took root; and there was the richeſt crop, both of grain and fodder that has been known in this century; it has often ſince been compared with crop 1775, which was a dry ſeaſon,

and produced a very rich crop, with very little fodder, and I find the preference has in general been given to crop 1784. The harveſt was likewiſe rainy and late; the oats were filled, but in general never ripened, or rather were never of a proper yellow colour; many farmers were too impatient; ſome permitted their oats to ſtand all the month of November, and were ſenſible they ripened more in that month than at any former period. One farmer in this pariſh diſmiſſed his reapers in the end of October; he left one large incloſure where the oats were quite green; they filled perfectly during the month of November, and gave as much meal as any oats on his farm. I could mention many other inſtances in other years of the propriety of not being too haſty in cutting down oats before they are completely filled, though the ſeaſon is late. On the whole, there never was a more plentiful crop than in 1784. Meal was ſelling about Candlemas next year at L. 8 Scots; before next harveſt it could have been purchaſed below 10s. each boll, the laſt crop exceeding every perſon's expectation, and what was more extraordinary, the oats that were green, and had been reſerved as of leaſt value, producing as much meal as thoſe that appeared to be fully ripened.

The greateſt part of the peaſe of this crop was entirely loſt, and never taken off the ground for want of good weather to dry the ſtraw. I had myſelf that year a field of from ſix to ſeven acres in peaſe and beans, four acres in beans, and two and a half in peaſe; the peaſe were ſown in the beginning of March, and completely covered, by getting the ground harrowed; from that time to the end of April I only found one day for ſowing my beans; they were ſown, but I could only, from the conſtant rains, give the ground a ſlight touch with the harrow; the greateſt part of the beans being ſtill uncovered, I collected a few boys, each with a ſtick in his hand, and puſhed every bean

we

we diſcovered a few inches below the ground; there was a moſt luxuriant crop of peaſe and beans, both of grain and fodder. The peaſe, after they were cut down, were frequently covered with ſnow, and in turning them a great part of the grain was loſt; I waited till near the end of November, and ſeeing no proſpect of preſerving them in the ordinary manner, I took three Norway trees, of 10 or 12 feet in length, tied them at the top with a rope, and extended them at the *baſe*; the peaſe were built round the trees on the outſide, four ſmall arches were left at the bottom, all was hollow within the trees, and open at the top before the rick was thatched; the air ruſhed in, went to the top, and in a few days the ſtraw, which was formerly wet, was as dry in the inſide as on the outſide; the whole crop of peaſe was contained in three ricks; the grain that remained, and ſtraw, was entirely preſerved; and if the experiment had been tried ſooner, the whole of the grain would have been ſaved. After the peaſe were threſhed out, I offered the ſtraw for ſale in 1785, at 3 d. each ſtone; I only ſold at that time a few ſtones; in 1786, there was a ſcarcity of fodder; I ſold the peaſe-ſtraw at 4 d. each ſtone; the farmers had ſuſpicions at firſt of its being ſpoiled from age, and rotten, and were ſlow in purchaſing it; it was however ſoon ſold, and the perſon who bought the laſt part of it came to me ſmiling, and ſaid he had not bought cheaper or freſher fodder that winter, and that his horſes appeared to be exceedingly fond of it. This method of preſerving peaſe is very ſimple, but notwithſtanding of this circumſtance, and though it is perfectly underſtood, and frequently practiſed in the higher parts of the county, where there is plenty of timber, and was pretty generally known in this corner at the time, I have never ſeen it repeated, and I am acquainted with many inſtances of peaſe being entirely loſt ſince that year. The want of timber

can

can be no excuſe; as much more is wanted at moſt farms in the courſe of the year, and it does not ſuffer by being employed in the manner I have mentioned.

Many, by hurrying in their beans to the corn-yard in 1785, loſt them and the fodder. I delayed touching mine till the laſt day of November; and in the night-time, with moon light, and a briſk breeze of wind from the weſt, got them all out of danger; beans are a hardy grain, and will remain long in the field, without receiving injury from the weather. I know no part of huſbandry in this pariſh in which farmers are more apt to err, than in the management of their beans, by taking them too quickly off the field; if not ſufficiently dry, and even blackened, the fodder and grain are both ſpoiled.

The ſoil in this pariſh, whether it be a ſandy or clay ſoil, is excellently calculated for raiſing beans. They are all ſown in the broadcaſt; in this manner they have more fodder, but leſs grain, than if they were ſown in drills and hoed; but the fodder is ſo valuable for horſes, (in my opinion nearly equal to hay and oats), that there are great inducements to continue this practice. Next to turnips, potatoes, or fallow, they are the beſt preparing crop for graſs. It is rare to ſee beans in the higher parts of the county; but they deſerve to be introduced, as I know few crops more valuable.

Births.—It is not poſſible to aſcertain the number of births from the ſeſſion-regiſter, as many people decline entering their childrens names in the record. Since the propoſal of a Statiſtical Account, I have inſerted in a private regiſter all that I have baptized. The reſult is as follows, for three years, from the 31ſt March 1791 to the ſame date 1794, 136 males, and 109 females; total 245; at an average each year, nearly 82. From all the information

I can receive, there may be from 20 to 25 more baptized in the pariſh each year.

Burials.—There is no regiſter of burials kept by the ſeſſion; I have, however, requeſted the preſent ſexton, ſince he entered on his office, to mark accurately every burial in the church-yard, and to keep a book for that purpoſe, that he may know when it is proper to open a grave where a corpſe has formerly been laid down. This regiſter, of which I keep a copy, is now before me; and from the 20th January 1773 to the 20th January 1795, there have been buried 1425; average for 22 years, nearly 65. For the firſt eleven years during this period, there were buried 672, average 61; for the laſt eleven 753, average each year 68. This, however, does not accurately ſtate the number of deaths in this pariſh; many ſtrangers are buried here, and many are carried out of this place to other places. The ſexton, however, aſſures me, there are more carried out of this pariſh than brought hither, owing to the number of new inhabitants who reſide in the town of Peterhead.

Small-pox.—In 1774, I find there were 72 burials: of this number 27 died of the ſmall-pox: in 1781, there were 86 burials, and of this number 34 died of the ſame diſorder. Inoculation has been introduced here for theſe laſt 25 years; but the practice is far from being general.

Marriages.—It is ſtill more difficult to aſcertain the number of marriages. I have kept for ſeveral years a liſt of perſons I have married; but this only happens when the bride reſides in this pariſh, and is a member of my congregation; I have a note before me from the clerk, from the 22d of May 1791 to the 1ſt of March 1794, of proclamations during that period, they amount to 84; ſo that at an

average each year they may be eſtimated at 28 pair. Neither does this aſcertain the number of marriages, as the bans of marriage are publiſhed in the pariſh where either the bride or bridegroom reſides. I find from the 23d June 1791 to the ſame date in 1794, I have married only 54 pair; average each year during this period, 18.

Miniſters.—From all the information I have received, there have been here five Preſbyterian miniſters ſince the Revolution, Mr Guthrie, Mr Brown, Mr Farquhar, Mr Walker, and the writer of the preſent account. Mr Brown left this pariſh, and was afterwards ſettled at Behelvie, in the preſbytery of Aberdeen: Mr Farquhar went to Chapel of Garioch, in the preſbytery of Garioch, and died only a few years ago. He was father of Mr John Farquhar, late miniſter of Nigg, the author of two volumes of ſermons, which are ſo generally and deſervedly eſteemed. They receive an additional value from the character of the author, whoſe life was a tranſcript of the ſentiments he publiſhed. He died at a very early age; the warmth of his affection was the cauſe of his death; having overheated himſelf in going to ſee a friend, who was ill of a fever, he was in a few days ſeized with the ſame diſorder, which ſoon proved fatal:

> Multis ille bonis flebilis occidit,
> Nulli flebilior quam MIHI.

My predeceſſor was father likewiſe of Mr Walter Farquhar, ſo eminent in London for his extenſive practice and ſkill in the medical profeſſion. Both his ſons were born in this pariſh. The preſent incumbent was ſettled here in 1763.

Living.

Living.—The living, by a decreet of the court of teinds in 1792, which is not yet allocated on the different heritors, conſiſts of 5 chalders of meal, 3 chalders of bear, and L. 41 : 13 : 4 Sterling of money, in which is included L. 8, 6 s. 8 d. for communion-elements.

The glebe conſiſts of different patches of ground, in all betwixt 8 and 9 acres, part of the ſoil very indifferent, but now rendered more valuable by ſome improvements of the preſent incumbent; beſides a garden, and ſite for the manſe and offices, and a privilege of paſturage on the links before the manſe.

Manſe.—The manſe is very old; was burnt in 1740; rebuilt a little afterwards by the laſt incumbent, on a compromiſe with the heritors; the walls of the former manſe, which were built with mortar, I am informed ſtill remain. The whole of the houſe is very inſufficient; the offices were built about 16 years ago, and with repairs to the manſe, which were only about L. 5, coſt the heritors L. 90 Sterling, the whole that has been paid by them during my reſidence here. It has coſt me a much greater ſum for ſome additional accommodation, and keeping the manſe and offices in repairs, which are renewed every year.

Church.—The church was built in 1771, in the Kirktown, and is an elegant building 78 feet long, and 39 feet broad over the walls, which are of a proper height to admit of the galleries being ſufficiently raiſed.

From the poſition of the pulpit, and the arrangement of the ſeats, both in the galleries and on the ground-floor, it is the moſt convenient place of worſhip with which I am acquainted. The plan was ſent by one of the heritors reſiding at Edinburgh, and was got from an eminent architect there.

There

There has been a great alteration in the ſtyle of building churches in the Synod of Aberdeen ſince its erection, but without attending to the ſtrict proportion and ſimplicity of this plan, which might ſerve as a model for any church, the pulpit being placed at an equal diſtance from the eaſt and weſt end of the north wall, and every perſon both ſeeing and hearing the miniſter. The whole expence of the building was only L. 520 Sterling; and a ſmall fund being obtained, by the rent of a few ſeats, which were fixed after the plan was completed, at preſent under the management of the kirk-ſeſſion, the heritors have paid nothing for repairs ever ſince the church was built.

The Scotch and Engliſh Epiſcopals and Seceders have each a very convenient place of worſhip in the town of Peterhead. There is an organ in each of the Epiſcopal chapels.

Poor.—There are no aſſeſſments on the heritors for the ſubſiſtence of the poor. They are ſupported chiefly from collections in the church, which are very liberal. When I was ſettled in 1763, there was about L. 90 Sterling in the box; the money at preſent ſettled on intereſt does not much exceed that ſum. Thirty years ago, ordinary collections every Lord's day were from 7 s. to 8 s.; they are now from 18 s. to L. 1. This, with the ordinary perquiſites, under the management of the kirk-ſeſſion, and the intereſt of a ſmall capital, affords conſiderable relief to the poor, who for ſome years have varied from 70 to 80. There are few beggars in the pariſh, excepting on Friday, on which there is always a market in the town of Peterhead: many on that day come in from the neighbouring pariſhes. At the communion, which is diſpenſed once every year, there is collected from L. 16 to L. 17 Sterling. A collection of L. 5 Sterling is ſent each year to the Infirmary

firmary of Aberdeen; and frequently very large collections are obtained in the church for the relief of particular families, whoſe ſituation from ſome unexpected diſaſter requires immediate relief. Two annual diſtributions are made in the months of May and November, beſides giving largely at the communion, and on every Lord's day, to perſons, whoſe ſituation appears to the ſeſſion ſo indigent as not to admit of a delay till the ordinary time for diſtributing the poor's money.

School.—The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary, for a long ſpace of time, was 13 bolls 3 firlots of meal, from the country part of the pariſh, and L.3 : 6 : 8 Sterling from the town. During the laſt vacancy, which happened in 1788, the town of Peterhead petitioned the heritors of the pariſh to permit them to get a ſchoolmaſter ſettled by a comparative trial, to teach in concert with another ſchoolmaſter, ſettled by Dr Anderſon's truſtees, who have the appointment of ſeveral charity ſchools; that theſe two might form a kind of *academy* for teaching Engliſh, Latin, Greek, writing, arithmetic, and book-keeping, the elements of mathematics and navigation; and engaged that if this ſcheme were adopted, they would advance the ſchoolmaſter's ſalary to L. 15, beſides the meal payable by the country part of the pariſh, and give both the ſchoolmaſters places for teaching in the town-houſe.

The heritors granted this petition; Mr Adamſon was found beſt qualified on a comparative trial, and preſented by the town of Peterhead. His ſalary at preſent is 13 bolls 3 firlots of meal from the country part of the pariſh, L. 10 from the town of Peterhead, and L. 5 from the merchant's box; he has likewiſe a fee of L. 2 : 15 : 6 as ſeſſion-clerk. The whole of his emoluments, with ſchool-dues and perquiſites as ſeſſion-clerk, will not exceed L. 35 Sterling.

ling. His colleague, Mr Smith, has L. 20 Sterling of ſalary. Mr Adamſon teaches Latin and Engliſh, Mr Smith writing and arithmetic, in ſeparate ſchools. The number of ſcholars who attend both ſchools is from 40 to 50, and is ſeldom more. There are none at preſent who are taught Greek, or any part of the mathematics, though Mr Adamſon is perfectly qualified to teach theſe, and every other part allotted to him; he is a young man of very great abilities. Mr Smith is likewiſe very aſſiduous in his department. There is beſides another ſchoolmaſter in the town, who teaches writing, arithmetic, book-keeping and Latin, without any ſalary. He has at preſent from 40 to 50 boys, and 17 girls. There are likewiſe in town 9 women, who teach the younger children reading, and the girls knitting and ſewing; their number of ſcholars at preſent in winter is about 150, and in ſummer they are much more numerous; only one of them has any ſalary, and ſhe has only L. 2, 5 s. Sterling from the parents, whoſe children attend her ſchool. There is alſo in the ſea-town of Boddom a ſchoolmiſtreſs, who teaches about 20 children to read Engliſh. Mr Shand, organiſt to the Scotch Epiſcopal chapel, teaches to play on the harpſichord and guitar in the town of Peterhead, but does not meet with that encouragement which his talents and character deſerves.

Attempts have been made to improve the church-muſic both in the Eſtabliſhed Church and in the Epiſcopal chapels; but the improvement is very ſlow, and from whatever cauſe it may proceed, a taſte for muſic is much leſs frequent on the ſea-coaſt in Buchan than in the higher parts of the county.

Students at the Univerſity.—Mr Adamſon, the ſchoolmaſter has attended the Divinity Hall for ſeveral years, and is the only Student from this place at preſent at any Univerſity.

Univerſity. I do not recollect above ſeven or eight who have been at an Univerſity from this pariſh ſince 1763.

Fuel.—The country part of this pariſh is ſupplied with peat from the moſſes; the town, partly with peats, and partly with coals. From the great prejudice in favour of peats, the moſſes are nearly exhauſted, and the whole pariſh will ſoon be obliged to make uſe of coals. It will probably be of advantage to the farmers, who employ a great part of ſummer in managing and leading their peats, which might be better employed in fallowing or driving lime and dung to their farms.

Thirlage.—Every ſpecies of ſervitude is aboliſhed, excepting thirlage to the mills, which is univerſally conſidered as a heavy burden, and a great obſtacle to improvement.

Crofters.—There are very few crofters in the pariſh. Thoſe who have large farms complain of the want of them, from the difficulty of finding ſervants.

Wages.—The wages of ſervants have increaſed very much. Thirty years ago, a man-ſervant could have been hired for L. 2, 10 s. Sterling in the year; they are now from L. 5 to L. 8; maid-ſervants were from 12 s. to 15 s. in the half-year; they are at preſent from L. 1 to L. 1, 10 s. Day-labourers were 8 d. each day in ſummer, without their victuals, they are now 1 s.; maſons and wrights were 1 s. they are now 1 s. 6 d.; in harveſt, reapers get 1 s. each, beſides their victuals; the wages of other tradeſmen and day-labourers are increaſed in the ſame proportion.

Language.—The language ſpoken in this pariſh is the broad Buchan dialect of the Engliſh, with many Scotticiſms, and ſtands much in need of reformation, which it is to be hoped will ſoon happen, from the frequent reſort of polite people to the town in ſummer.

The names of places in the pariſh ſeem to be derived chiefly from the Engliſh and Gaelic. Thus, *Alehouſe-hill*, (a houſe which the family of *Raven's Craig* uſed to frequent as a *tavern*), *Myreſide*, *Hayfield*, *Newſeat*, *Mount-Pleaſant*, *Scotch-mill* are Engliſh; likewiſe, *Stay the Voyage*, (a place where the family of Mariſchal uſed to halt in their way from Inverugie to Peterhead), another *Stay the Voyage*, from a tenant of the former place having carried the name of his firſt place of reſidence to a houſe in the oppoſite ſide of the pariſh; *Croſs-fold*, from a place of worſhip having been in that field before the Reformation. *Invernettie*, *Auchtiegall*, *Glendevny*, and *Balmuir*, I am informed are Gaelic; and *Blackhouſe*, which was ſuppoſed to be Engliſh, I am informed, is likewiſe Gaelic; *Blackhouſe* being derived from *Blockhouſe*, which ſignifies a place of defence in front of a caſtle. The truth is, *Blackhouſe*, in this pariſh, on the ſide of the *Ugie*, is oppoſite to the ruins of an Old Caſtle, which belonged to the family of the Cheynes in St Fergus, and which was their place of reſidence, long before the houſe of Inverugie was built, or they had any connexion with the family of Mariſchal, or Keiths of *Raven's Craig*.

Volunteers.—The people in general in the pariſh are not fond of a military life; but in the preſent war, when they are ſenſible they have every thing that is valuable at ſtake, many have enliſted for the army; and in the town of Peterhead, two companies of volunteers, 50 men each company, have turned out with the greateſt readineſs for the defence

defence of the town, and more if neceſſary could eaſily have been muſtered; they have likewiſe begun to enliſt for the navy; and there is no doubt that the neceſſary complement of 18 ſeamen, or 36 landmen, will ſoon be found.

Character.—The people in the country part of the pariſh are in general very diligent, temperate, peaceable, and inoffenſive in their manners. I know of no crime for which any perſon has been capitally convicted. They are very punctual in their attendance at church, and obſervance of divine ordinances; and their outward decency in times of public worſhip is very exemplary.

TOWN OF PETERHEAD.

Town.—About a mile ſouth of the *Ugie* ſtands the town of Peterhead, latitude 57° 30′—33″ N. on a peninſula, which projects into the German Ocean, and forms the eaſtermoſt point of land in Scotland; it is called *Peter's Polle* by the Dutch, and, as formerly mentioned, is ſuppoſed to be the Cape taken notice of by Ptolemy. An *Iſthmus*, which connects the town with the country on the N. W. is only about 800 yards broad. The reſt of the town is ſurrounded by the ſea, which on the eaſt part is ſo near the houſes, that a bulwark is raiſed to protect them from high ſtream-tides.

The town, with the adjacent lands, of conſiderable value and extent, formerly belonged to the Abbey of Deer. In 1560, Queen Mary appointed Robert Keith, ſon of William 4th Earl Mariſchal, Commendator of Deer; in 1587, James VI. raiſed this Robert to the dignity of the peerage,

by the title of Lord *Altree*, having created the Abbey lands a temporal lordſhip in his favour; this peerage became extinct, and the Abbey lands fell to the Earl Mariſchal. *Anno* 1637, William 6th Earl Mariſchal obtained a new charter from the Crown of the *Abbey* lands, beſides the tithes great and ſmall of the pariſh of Peterhead, the parſonage of the church, ſalmon and white-fiſhing. The following lands are mentioned, as ſituate in the pariſh of Peterhead: "Terras de *Lebill*, terras de *Munchiſhill*, ter-" ras de *Granig*, (at preſent *Grange*), de *Raehill*, (where " the windmill at preſent ſtands), de *Fiſherburn*, de Peter-" head cum Anchoragiis ejuſdem." After the forfeiture of Earl Mariſchal in 1715, the town, with the lands belonging to that family in the pariſh, were bought by a fiſhing company in England; which failing in 1726, ſold the town and theſe lands to the Governors of the Merchant Maiden Hoſpital of Edinburgh, at the price, if I am not miſinformed, of L. 3000 Sterling. The rental amounted to 191 bolls of bear, 199 bolls of meal, 2 bolls of oats, and L. 80 Sterling of money, beſides the feu-duty for property in Peterhead. The Governors let theſe lands to one tackſman at L. 245 Sterling, at which rent it remained till about 20 years ago.

A few years before that period, the Governors expoſed all their property in this pariſh to ſale, and it was purchaſed by a gentleman at Edinburgh for L. 10,000 Sterling, who thought the price high, and had an option to conſider for ſome time, and relinquiſh the bargain if he thought proper; when the time was nearly elapſed, he gave in his renunciation, which was accepted very readily by one of the Governors, who never approved of the ſale, and put the paper into the charter-cheſt, marking on the back of it, a *miraculous eſcape*. He was right in his opinion; in 1755 the rent was raiſed to L. 870, and in 1794 to L. 1040 Ster-

ling.

ling, beſides the money which the Governors are daily receiving for ground which is feued off, and amounts in a few years to a very conſiderable ſum.

The town was formed into a burgh of barony by George Earl Mariſchal in 1593; it was then called Keith Inch. The number of feuers to whom the charter was granted was only 14. The ground feued out, about 3 acres; the purchaſe-money 3000 merks, and the mail or feu-duty L. 7, 11 s. Scotch. From the boundaries of the different feus, they ſeem to have been placed from the Ronheads and Keith Inch, the eaſtern points, to the remoteſt extremity of what is at preſent called the town of Peterhead, for one of the feus is bounded by the Kirkburn, which divides the town on the ſouth-weſt ſide from the links, where no houſes are erected. The original feuers appear to have been fiſhers, for each of them is permitted to have a boat for white-fiſhing, on paying the teind-fiſh, and "ſic as happens "to paſs to far fiſhing, the ſaid Earl and his foreſaids ſhall "have ſuch teynd thereof as the inhabitants of *Anſtruther* "pay." When the number of feuers ſhall amount to 30 perſons, they were obliged to build a tolbooth, or pay 200 merks to the Earl for building it; they were likewiſe engaged to build ſufficient ſtone ſlated houſes, 24 feet in length, and 16 in breadth, in ſuch places as may be found moſt for the decoration of the burgh, and to pay L. 2 yearly till they build ſuch houſes. They were farther obliged to build and erect a bulwark in the mouth of the haven called Port *Henry*, (now the North Harbour), "for eaſement of their "ſeafaring veſſels, and ſhall accompliſh the ſame half a "year after that the ſaid Earl hath received the *graſſums* "of 20 tenants."

The town at preſent holds of the Governors of the Merchant Maiden Hoſpital of Edinburgh as ſuperiors. The Government of the town is veſted in a bailie and 8 counſellors.

ſellors. The bailie is named by the ſuperiors, and has his commiſſion from them; the counſellors are choſen annually by the feuers, at a general meeting called for that purpoſe; 4 of theſe are choſen from among the merchants, 2 from the ſhipmaſters, and 2 from the trades. The bailie exerciſes his judicial authority, or legal juriſdiction, competent in a burgh of barony; and the counſellors, jointly with the bailie, have the adminiſtration of the common good of the town; the public revenue of which, about 30 years ago, did not exceed L. 135 Sterling; it is now about L. 240, reſulting from the ſhore-dues, petty cuſtoms, and the rent of ſome land adjacent to the town, which was formerly a common, but now the abſolute property of the feuers. The whole of this revenue is annually laid out in improving the harbour, ſtreets, other public works, and for the good of the town.

The town is nearly in form of a croſs, and may be divided into four parts: The *Kirk-town*, *Ronheads*, *Keith Inch* or *Quenzie*, and the town properly ſo called. A ſmall ropery is carried on; a number of day-labourers and manufacturers reſide in the Kirktown, which formerly was disjoined from, but is now almoſt connected with the town by one continued ſtreet. The feus extend no farther than the Kirktown to the weſtward, which is ſeparated by a ſmall rivulet from the manſe and the links, where there is excellent *golfing*, and where the young men of the town, and many far advanced in life, reſort for amuſement. Formerly there was a fiſhing-boat with a crew which belonged to this part of the town, but all the boats at preſent belong to the Ronheads, the north eaſt part of the town, where the fiſhermen, ſailors, pilots, and a few ſhipmaſters reſide. Here there are 9 boats, which employ about 40 hands; all theſe fiſhermen are likewiſe pilots, and are therefore not ſo ſteady in catching fiſh as the people in Boddom; they are very

very hardy and intrepid as pilots, go out boldly to meet ſhips in the greateſt ſtorms, and have the character of being as ready and diſcreet as any on the coaſt. On the Keith Inch, the north part of which is called the Greenhill, there are ſeveral excellent houſes, and ſome reſpectable families. Here, on the ſouthermoſt part, is an old caſtle, built by George Earl Mariſchal in the beginning of laſt century. He was employed at the Court of Denmark on an embaſſy, and brought over the Princeſs of Denmark, who was married to King James VI. It is ſaid he built this caſtle from a model of the palace of the King of Denmark; it has been long uſed as a granary and ſtorehouſe, and though the walls and roof are ſtanding, is in a ruinous ſtate.

Near this there is a ſmall fort, and a guard-houſe, with a battery of four 12, and four 18 pounders, brought here in the courſe of the laſt war. There were once ſeven cannon placed at the mouth of the two harbours, beſides ſome braſs pieces in the tolbooth, which were all carried to London after the year 1715. The Keith Inch formerly at ſtream-tides was entirely ſeparated from the town, the tide flowing from the North to the South Harbour. This is now prevented by a mound of earth, raiſed ſo high as never to be overflowed by the ſea; on the north ſide of this are placed the fleſh-houſe, a number of ſheds for coals, lime, and timber, and a ſalt manufacture; on the ſouth ſide is the warehouſe, two ſmall docks or ſlips for ſhip-building, and the South Harbour.

Harbours.—There are two harbours, the North and the South. The North Harbour is the oldeſt. There is a pier of very large ſtones on the north-eaſt ſide, without any cement, but which ſeldom needs repairs; ſhips ſometimes enter this harbour, and are laid up for the winter; in general, it is only employed by large boats from the *Murray frith*,

frith, and the fiſhing and pilot boats of Peterhead. There is 11 feet depth of water at ſtream-tides in this harbour. The channel is narrow.

The South Harbour is rendered much more commodious than it was formerly by the channel being deepened. There are now two excellent piers on the ſouth and weſt ſides of the harbour, and they form with the *Quenzie*, or *Keith Inch*, on the eaſt ſide, a capacious baſon, where at preſent above 60 ſhips may remain in great ſafety, and with ſome additional expence in clearing the channel, and erecting another pier or quay on the eaſt ſide, I am informed it may contain about 100 veſſels.

The ſouth pier, which ſuſtains the whole force of the German Ocean, (and at ſome times, from the waves that break over the parapet, the appearance is very grand and tremenduous), is 460 feet in length, 42 feet wide at the broadeſt part, 40 feet high from the foundation of the head to the top of the parapet. The weſt pier is 633 feet in length, the parapet-wall 325 feet; the height at the head from the foundation to the top of the parapet-wall is 26 feet.

They are both of large pieces of granite, ſquared and neatly dreſſed, and are thought of ſufficient ſtrength and firmneſs (with a little attention) to reſiſt the force of the ſea: the foot-path and quay is broad and commodious, and the workmanſhip on the whole is well executed.

The two piers, with expences in deepening the harbour, have coſt the town above L. 5000 Sterling; of this they have received about L. 4000 from Government, the Governors of the Merchant Maiden Hoſpital, and contributions from a few individuals. The depth of water is from 12 to 14 feet at ſtream-tides, and from 8 to 9 feet at neap-tides.

Conſiderable

Conſiderable improvements may ſtill be made on this harbour. By carrying the ſouth pier farther into the ſea, ſhips of any burden that are employed in trade might find ſhelter here. Without extending the pier, the channel may be deepened two or three feet, and the two harbours might be joined into one, by cutting the bridge which divides the town from the Quenzie. If this was accompliſhed, it would ſave many valuable ſhips from being wrecked, which cannot, from ſtrong weſterly gales, fetch any of the friths, or any of the harbours betwixt them, but might reach this harbour; and if the two harbours were united, they could go out to ſea with any wind, which would remove the great inconvenience to which ſhips are ſo frequently ſubjected by being confined in the South Harbour from contrary winds. I have ſeen this harbour full of ſhips, which were detained for upwards of ſix weeks by the wind blowing from the S. or S. E.

This improvement has been pointed out to the inhabitants by ſome engineers, whom they have conſulted: there can be no doubt of its being practicable, and of its utility when executed. By an eſtimate from Mr John Gwyn, the whole expence for making the two piers already finiſhed, and uniting the two harbours, was only L. 6891 : 3 : 6 Sterling; but were it three times this expence, the advantages are obviouſly ſo immenſely great, that it ſhould be attempted, and if once begun, there can be little doubt it would be executed. Perhaps it could not be eaſily effectuated by the inhabitants of this town; but the benefit they would receive from this improvement is ſo great, that I hope ſome time ſoon they will ſeriouſly think of commencing it, even if they ſhould mortgage the whole of their town's funds for that purpoſe, or lend ſome of their private property on the ſecurity of the certain advance of revenue from the increaſed number of ſhips that would enter the

harbour; beſides, it would be attended with ſuch advantages to the trade and navigation of this iſland in general, that it is to be hoped, on a proper repreſentation, it might be accompliſhed by a general contribution, or aid from Government, or by obtaining an act of Parliament for raiſing the ſhore-dues. The joining the two harbours was part of the original plan when the two new piers were erected. When this work was begun, they had little proſpect of receiving ſo much money as was aftrewards obtained; and from what happened then, it gives encouragement to expect that money would not be wanting, if ſo uſeful an improvement was commenced. The Governors of the Merchant Maiden Hoſpital are much intereſted in this plan being carried into effect; the riſe of their rents for lands near the town, and the value of feus would be ſo much increaſed, that the advantages accruing to them cannot eaſily be calculated; beſides the ſatisfaction of contributing to make Peterhead the greateſt and moſt thriving town in the north of Scotland.

It deſerves attention likewiſe, that in time of war, this being a head-land, is the place where privateers moſt frequently keep their ſtation, and pick up ſhips which might find ſhelter here, but for want of acceſs to a harbour, are obliged to beat up againſt the wind for ſeveral days.

Mineral Well.—A little to the weſt of the entrance to the South Harbour is the mineral well, the virtues of which have been known above 200 years.

It has long been called the Wine Well. The country people who reſort hither in ſummer, and the greateſt part of the inhabitants of this pariſh ſtill give it the ſame name. Whence it ſhould have received this appellation is not eaſy to ſay, nor is it of great importance to determine. From the water ſparkling in a glaſs, and exhilarating the ſpirits,

it

it may have been compared to Champagne; but this conjecture is not ſupported by any record or tradition.

An analyſis of this water is given by Dr Laing. From the reſult of his experiments, in 12 lb. avoirdupois weight of water, there are found,

Aerated iron,	-	-	$3\frac{1}{2}$ grains.
Muriated iron,	-	-	$30\frac{1}{4}$
Muriated lime,	-	-	7
Silicious earth,	-	-	2
Gypſum,	-	-	2
Glauber's ſalt,	-	-	$13\frac{1}{4}$
Common ſalt,	-	-	$7\frac{1}{2}$
Fixed air, cubic inches,		-	$83\frac{1}{3}$

This water has long been deſervedly in repute, for general debility, diſorders of the ſtomach and bowels, flatulencies and indigeſtion, nervous complaints which flow from theſe cauſes, and diſeaſes peculiar to the fair ſex; and in all theſe diſorders, I can from 30 years obſervation and experience affirm, I know of no remedy more efficacious, when attention is paid at the ſame time to regimen, exerciſe, and amuſement, and taking now and then a gentle emetic or laxative, as circumſtances may require. In moſt caſes where the mineral water is uſed, the cold bath is proper, and promotes its good effects, which are an increaſe of appetite, ſtrength, and ſpirits.

There is no diſeaſe for which people reſort to the well more frequently than gravel, though with a conſiderable degree of hazard, as I have ſeen numerous inſtances of nephritic paroxyſms brought on by the uſe of the water, and where calculi are formed in the kidneys or bladder, this effect is naturally to be expected.

The water, as a cleanſer and tonic, may have ſome

effect in preventing the diſeaſe altogether *; but after a perſon has for ſome time been afflicted with it, I think the caſe is very different, and cannot ſee ſufficient reaſons for recommending the water but with the utmoſt caution. If the water, from the quantity of fixed air, is ſuppoſed to have a power to diſſolve calculous concretions, fixed air may be given in any quantity, and is frequently recommended, without any of the ſtimulating ingredients which are found in Peterhead water; and if it is ſuppoſed to operate as a cleanſer by its diuretic qualities, liquids may be given that are leſs irritating.

Perhaps I may expreſs myſelf ſtrongly; but the ſimple idea of driving gravel or ſmall calculi through the kidneys, ureters, or urethra, with cold iron, has always affected me with ſome degree of terror, eſpecially when we muſt be ignorant of the quantity of gravel to be diſcharged, or the ſize, ſhape, and ſurface (whether ſmooth or rough) of the calculi that are to paſs through theſe paſſages.

When a nephritic paroxyſm happens without the uſe of any medicine, and is probably an effort of nature from irritation, to throw off the peccant matter, how careful are we to avoid every thing which may produce or increaſe inflammation, and to preſcribe the gentleſt diuretics, and the mildeſt

* Perhaps a ſteady uſe of common ſpring water, in place of ale or beer, might be equally ſerviceable, and leſs dangerous in preventing gravel. A gentleman, aged 42, with whom I am acquainted, has for theſe laſt 20 years of his life ſcarce taſted any malt liquor, from an apprehenſion of gravel, and has confined himſelf to drinking cold water. His grandfather and great-grandfather died of that diſorder; his father was cut for the ſtone. He himſelf has hitherto kept entirely free from this complaint. From a ſedentary life, and ſevere ſtudy, he has at preſent ſome complaints, which probably are unconnected with gravel; but being apprehenſive of that diſorder, he is thinking of trying the Peterhead water, becauſe his father thought he received benefit from it, who, after having tried it for near 30 years, was cut for the ſtone.

mildeſt diluents, to relax and ſooth, by fomentations and opiates, rather than irritate by *tonics* and *ſtimulants*.

The mineral water is ſometimes recommended for a ſuppreſſion of urine. When this proceeds from great debility, or a paralytic affection of the longitudinal fibres of the bladder, it may then be ſometimes ſerviceable; but when there is any ſuſpicion of inflammation, or when it proceeds from ſpaſm, I ſhould not think it ſafe to recommend the water; and conſidering the difficulty of determining from which of theſe cauſes the diſorder may proceed, the utmoſt caution is more neceſſary.

Dr Laing has recommended it likewiſe for *dropſy*. Of the propriety of this I have great doubts. There are many diuretics preſcribed in that diſorder, which are certainly more efficacious, and when tonics are indicated, they may be given in a more concentrated form; when the diſeaſe proceeds only from relaxation, perhaps no great danger is to be apprehended from uſing the water; but when it proceeds, which is frequently the caſe, from obſtructions in the liver, I ſhould be afraid to recommend it. I would not wiſh to interdict a dropſical perſon, who may have a great thirſt, the uſe of drink; but perhaps a ſolution of cream of tartar, in common water, which is gently laxative, diuretic, and deobſtruent, and which has been ſo ſtrongly recommended by Dr Home in his Clinical Lectures, in dropſical caſes, would be more proper for allaying thirſt.

It is really not poſſible preciſely to aſcertain what quantity of the mineral water may be taken in caſes where it is proper to uſe it freely.

It is prudent to begin with ſmall quantities, and increaſe the doſe as the ſtomach, or the ſtrength of the perſon will permit. When the appetite is mended, and the water paſſes off eaſily, the perſon need not be uneaſy at thinking he has taken too large a quantity. I have known it drunk

with

with ſafety to the amount of two Scotch pints in the courſe of the day; though there are not many who can eaſily take ſo large a quantity.

It is certainly taken to moſt advantage at the fountain-head, or in the room where the company aſſemble to drink the water; there are many inſtances, however, of people of great irritability, and who are very weak, beginning to drink it in bed in the morning with ſucceſs.

There is frequently a numerous genteel company here, drinking the water during the ſeaſon, which depends very much on the weather; it commonly begins in the month of June, and terminates in Auguſt or September.

There are ſuch crowds of country people who reſort to it in the month of July, that frequently the ſpring does not afford ſo much water as they would drink, and before 6 or 7 o'clock in the morning, the well is often literally dry. The company indeed at that time are not eaſily ſatisfied, for many of them drink from 6 to 8 Scotch pints in the day, beſides from a mutchkin to a Scotch pint of ſea-water, and eating large quantities of dilſe. They cannot be convinced, that the mineral water can be of any ſervice to their complaints without proving laxative, which is not its ordinary effect, and they have generally very ſevere exerciſe during the time they remain here; they are often much reduced in their ſtrength before they leave this place; they frequently aſk advice in what manner the water ſhould be taken, but with great reluctance follow it, if the water has no ſenſible effects during their ſtay here.

They come here indiſcriminately for all diſeaſes, without taking any previous advice. I have ſeen many, who were in the laſt ſtage of a conſumption, and others who had been drinking the mineral water for ſeveral days in large quantities, with conſtant fever on them, and whom with difficulty I have perſuaded to return home.

They come in great crouds hither, from the diſtance of 30 or 40 miles; and in the higher parts of the county, ſervants frequently make it an article in their agreement with their maſters, to have 5 or 6 days of the Wine Well at Peterhead, whether they have any complaints or not.

Many have applied to me for advice. In general they ſay their complaints are graveliſh; but, on enquiring more minutely, it is flatulency and indigeſtion, which is commonly called a *windy gravel*: and I believe this is one reaſon why the water is held in ſuch repute for graveliſh complaints. When I have reaſon to think it is really gravel, I always adviſe them to drink the water very moderately, if I cannot perſuade them to abſtain from it altogether, and moſt frequently ſend them home, with advice to take ſuch medicines as appear moſt proper for them.

There are great numbers who reſort hither, with cutaneous eruptions, ſcrofula, and glandular ſwellings; theſe find much more benefit from the ſea-water and bathing in the ſea, than from the mineral water; but they muſt drink out of the *Wine Well*, whatever their diſorder may be.

Dr Laing has recommended the Peterhead water for the ſcrofula, from its affinity to *muriated barytes*. I have not ſeen any effects from that medicine, which ſhould induce me to give the mineral water a preference to ſea-water and bathing in the ſea. Indeed, I know no diſeaſe, in the treatment of which one can ſpeak with leſs confidence of the effects of medicine, it is ſo fluctuating in its appearance, and the alterations, that appear in the patient, depend ſo much on the different ſeaſons of the year, peculiarities of age, and conſtitution, that what is merely the efforts of nature, is frequently attributed to a medicine, which may be in vogue, or may ſerve a preſent intereſt.

Great exertions have been made for the accommodation of the genteel company who reſort hither on account of

their

their health, and persons of every kind may find convenient lodgings. Two cold baths, a room where the company may assemble to drink the water, a large room for dancing, a billiard-room, and other accommodations, have been built by the society of Free Masons, and are to be found in the Keith Lodge, immediately contiguous to the well, which was erected about 30 years ago. They are at present employed in adding to the lodge an hotel, with a large suite of bed-rooms, for the accommodation of the water-drinkers; and which, by being separated from the New Inn only by the high-road, and immediately opposite to it, will be found extremely convenient, and, it is hoped, agreeable to the company who resort to this place.

The New Inn was originally built by the late Earl of Errol, from a desire to promote the interest of this town, and for the accommodation of the water-drinkers. A great number of houses, where elegant lodgings may be found, have been erected by many of the inhabitants, merely with a view to accommodate strangers. There is only wanting a warm bath, and a bathing machine on the sea-beach.

The company deserve every encouragement, as the money left by them in summer is very considerable.

Buildings.—Were a person, who had resided in Peterhead about 30 years ago, to come here for the first time since that period, he would be very much surprised with the present appearance of the town, both as to its size, and the improvement in the style of building. Several acres which were under the plough, contiguous to the principal street, have been feued, and are now decorated with some of the best streets and houses in town. One acre, which at that period yielded from L. 1 to L. 1, 10 s. Sterling of rent, would now produce nearly L. 150 Sterling for house-rent.

Thirty

Thirty years ago, peat-ſtacks and dunghills ſtood on the principal ſtreets in front of the houſes; theſe nuiſances are now removed, and it is allowed by ſtrangers to be as clean and neat in its appearance as any town in Scotland.

The houſes are not magnificent, but they are commodious and elegant, and are built of the fineſt granite, which is dreſſed ſo as to have a moſt agreeable appearance, and remains long without being ſullied by the weather.

Near the head of the principal ſtreet, where the tolbooth formerly ſtood, is an elegant town houſe, 60 feet long and 40 feet wide, with a ſpire, which is 110 feet from the threſhold to the ball; within the ſpire there is an excellent bell and a very fine clock. This houſe has coſt L. 1600, and before being finiſhed, will coſt L. 2000 Sterling.

Water.—There is no ſoft water in the town. This is inconvenient for the purpoſes of waſhing, and deprives the inhabitants of one great luxury, the pleaſure of drinking pure ſpring water, and this circumſtance is peculiarly diſagreeable to ſtrangers.

The water within the town is ſeldom uſed for tea; water for that purpoſe is brought from a well about 70 yards eaſtwards from the manſe, where there is a ciſtern which was formerly open, and where people employed to carry the water dipped their ankers very freely, without much attention to cleanneſs. That nuiſance is now removed; the ciſtern a few years ago was covered; the water taken from this well is not ſoft, but it is pleaſant to the taſte, and is ſuppoſed to extract the taſte and flavour of tea better than water that is much ſofter. It has for time immemorial been called the Tea Well, and many people ſubſiſt entirely by carrying water from it to the town.

The water in the town, and at a ſmall diſtance from it, is found from a long experience to be well calculated for making

making beer of a ſuperior quality to what is produced from the beſt water in other places. This town was once famous for having ale of an excellent quality, and it was then to be found in moſt houſes. Formerly conſiderable quantities of beer were exported from Peterhead, and they are alive in this town, who have ſeen ſigns upon taverns in Edinburgh, "Peterhead beer and ale to be ſold." There is ſtill ale to be found in this town in many private houſes, which ſupports its former character; but at preſent the ſupply is moſtly from a brewery in the neighbourhood, not in this pariſh, and two ſmaller ones in the town, and from which the inhabitants frequently get ale of a very good quality. It muſt appear likewiſe extraordinary, but from whatever cauſe it may proceed, nothing is more certain, than that the wheaten bread of this town is of a very ſuperior quality to that in moſt other places; ſtrangers, of whom there are great numbers here in ſummer, all take notice of it; and I have ſeen many people who have been in moſt towns on the continent of Europe, who declare they never ſaw better bread in the courſe of their travels. Shall this be attributed likewiſe to the water? or the air of the town? Many perſons who have been accuſtomed for a ſhort time to eat the bread of this town, have ſent for it from the diſtance of upwards of 30 miles.

Trade and Shipping.—This town has for a long time been a place of ſome trade; and at a diſtant period, ſhips have ſailed from this to the Baltic, Mediterranean ſeas, and America. From the teſtimony of a very reſpectable inhabitant, a few days ago, aged 92, who is very diſtinct in her recollection, I am informed, in 1720 there were only three ſhips which ſailed from this place. By the ſame perſon, though this may not be the proper place to mention it, I am informed, that before the year 1745, all the potatoes

potatoes brought to this town were imported from Ireland; that in that year ſome were brought from Strichen, about 14 or 15 miles from this place, probably from Lord Strichen's farm; that 60 years ago there were no carts in the town or pariſh.

From an anonymous manuſcript, which appears to deſerve ſome regard, I find there were only ſix ſhips belonging to this town in 1727. At preſent there are 26, and 2 ready to be launched. Some are employed in the foreign, the greateſt part in the coaſting trade. The ſhips are from 40 to 200 tons, and will amount nearly to 3000 tons dead weight. This is more than double the ſhipping of Banff, a royal burgh, the metropolis of that county, and a town of great opulence.

It is only of late that the trade of this town has been in a proper channel, and any attention beſtowed on fiſhings and manufactures. Much remains ſtill to be done; but from the exertions that have been made; and ſtill continue with increaſing ardour, it is to be hoped this will ſoon be the moſt thriving town in the north of Scotland.

Formery there was too much connexion with an illicit trade from Gottenburgh and Holland, that has now almoſt ceaſed.

The fiſh on this coaſt are all caught by boats. I have often been ſurpriſed attempts are not made to carry on this buſineſs with ſhips, as the Dutch fiſh on this coaſt every ſummer. Ships are ſent every ſeaſon; and I believe, during the greateſt part of the year from London, who ſupply the market there with live cod and flat fiſh, which they catch in the Pentland frith, in that neighbourhood, or on this coaſt. There are two, ſometimes three veſſels, ſent to fiſh at Barrahead; they carry out 16 fiſhermen each, and the average cargoes of each veſſel are from 12 to 14 tons of dried cod and ling, beſides the oil from ſun-fiſh which they

catch, which is ſometimes conſiderable. The cod-fiſh is generally ſent to the Mediterranean, and for 20 years backwards has been thought a good trade.

Some years ago there were two veſſels ſent to Iceland from this place to fiſh for cod; but after a trial for ſeveral years, the trade was dropped. The like number of veſſels was ſent to the herring-fiſhery, which in general was not thought a profitable trade.

There is one ſhip ſent to the Greenland fiſhing, which muſters 36 men; ſhe has hitherto been rather unſucceſsful; it is hoped, however, the company concerned with the ſhip will ſtill continue the trade, as the ſituation of this place is certainly favourable for an enterpriſe of this kind.

The principal attention at preſent is beſtowed on manufactures, in which many different companies are concerned. This was introduced only in 1764, by two young ladies of the name of *Park*, who began the manufacture of white threads on a ſmall ſcale; and when it was commenced, there was no yarn could be ſpun in the town above four hanks. The ſpinſters were ſoon brought to ſpin from eight to ten hanks. The Miſs Parks were ſo attentive to the buſineſs, and ſo honeſt in their dealings, that their threads were as much eſteemed as any in the kingdom. They extended their bleachfield, and were always certain of a ready ſale for any quantity they manufactured. They have retired a few years ago from buſineſs.

There are now in the pariſh and neighbourhood, with which the merchants here are connected, five bleachfields, where threads of an excellent quality are manufactured.

A woollen-cloth manufacture has been eſtabliſhed for a conſiderable time, and another for cotton for ſeveral years.

A ſalt manufacture has lately been eſtabliſhed here; likewiſe a nail and tin manufacture, both in their infancy, but will

will probably ſoon increaſe, as there is a greater demand for theſe articles than the company can find hands to furniſh.

A few years ago there was a diſtillery for whiſky, which was permitted to be rectified; there was a very good imitation of gin, brandy, cinnamon water, and other foreign ſpirits. The whiſky and cinnamon water were excellent. The late act of Parliament put a ſtop to this diſtillery. A few months ago it was in contemplation to make bricks and tiles; the clay on the piece of ground pitched upon for that purpoſe was not of ſufficient depth. This manufacture is much wanted, and probably will ſoon take place in ſome other part of the pariſh. A tannery is inſtantly to be eſtabliſhed.

The town is excellently ſupplied with tradeſmen of all kinds, particularly wrights and maſons, many of whom are not only fit to perform the operative part of their buſineſs, but qualified to give and execute plans of houſes, and are employed for that purpoſe, not only in the town, but in many places in the country at a conſiderable diſtance.

All kinds of houſehold-furniture are made in the neateſt and moſt ſubſtantial manner. There is one turner, who employs two or three hands beſides himſelf; he is a very ingenious young man, and turns a variety of articles ſo neatly, that his ſhop is reſorted to by moſt ſtrangers who frequent this town, and his goods are commiſſioned from many places at a diſtance.

There is frequent intercourſe betwixt this place and Norway and the Baltic. The coal-trade is carried on pretty briſkly. A great quantity of goods is imported from London, ſuch as porter, hops, flour, ſugar, tea, fruit, ſpiceries, *&c.* which not only ſupply the town, but a large diſtrict of country.—A great part of this trade formerly belonged to *Fraſerburgh*, a ſmall town about 18 miles from

This,

this, at the entrance of the *Moray frith*; it has now taken a different channel, and conſiderable quantities of goods are tranſported by carriers to Fraſerburgh, and the neighbourhood of that town.

The trade with London is moſtly carried on by ſhips belonging to a company at Banff, who have a few ſhips conſtantly employed in bringing goods from London to Peterhead, Fraſerburgh, and Banff. There is generally one of theſe traders here every two or three weeks. I am glad to find the merchants in this town are to employ their own ſhips in this trade. There is a very great value of eggs, butter, cheeſe, ſometimes of beef and pork, exported from this port to London.

A great quantity of victual is exported from this harbour, and purchaſed moſtly by merchants in this place, partly on commiſſion, and partly on ſpeculation.

There are many articles from the Carron Company brought hither; likewiſe from the manufacturing towns of Mancheſter, Leeds, Sheffield, and Birmingham. Goods to a conſiderable amount are imported from Sunderland, Newcaſtle, Hull, Leith, Glaſgow, Aberdeen, *&c.*; and by a liſt I have ſeen from the waiter of the principal Inn here, I find the number of riders and merchants on buſineſs, who lodged there from the 16th of May 1793 to the 16th of May 1794, was 153. A ſtate of the trade and manufactures in this town will be beſt known, by exhibiting as accurate an account of the imports and exports as can be obtained.

Imports of the following goods for the years under mentioned.

From Nov. 25. 1792 to ditto 1793 arrived in this port 518 veſſels, 416 of which were ſtrangers; from Nov. 25. 1793 to ditto 1794 arrived in this port 471 veſſels, 400 of which were ſtrangers.	Foreign wood, value,	Spey and other wood coaſtways, value,	Coals and cinders at 4 s. the boll,	Lime at 2s. 6d. the boll,	Flax mats at L. 2, 10 s.
From Nov. 25 1789 to Nov. 25. 1790,	L. 1277	L. 552	B. 2625	B. 6019	M. 997
From ditto 1790 to ditto 1791,	1463	479	4906	3712	1441
From ditto 1791 to ditto 1792,	1515	984	3630	4769	1582
From ditto 1792 to ditto 1793,	1249	1344	7075	5113	764
From ditto 1793 to ditto 1794,	759	1023	7659	3653	764
Average of five years in money,	L. 1252	L. 876	L. 1036	L. 506	L. 2774

Prior to 1792, there was an annual importation of iron from Sweden of about 30 tons; ſince that time it has been brought coaſtways from Leith and Aberdeen, and the quantity is ſuppoſed nearly the ſame.

Tiles, bricks, and ſlates are imported, ſuppoſed to the value of L. 600 Sterling each year.

From the variety of packages, and incorrect manner of clearing out bale goods at the Cuſtomhouſe, it is impoſſible to aſcertain the quantity of goods under that denomination; but from Leeds, Mancheſter, Birmingham, Carron, Glaſgow, *&c.* they may be eſtimated at L. 6000 Sterling annually. The groſs amount in value of goods brought hither from London, in groceries, teas, hops, flour, graſs-ſeeds, porter, and many other neceſſaries and luxuries of life for theſe three laſt years, is ſuppoſed to be L. 12,000 each year.

It is ſuppoſed there is not leſs than 9000 lb. of tea imported.

From 20 to 24 pipes of red Port and white wine are imported by way of Leith; 22 pipes, at L. 50 Sterling each pipe, L. 1100 Sterling.

Some

Some claret and Madeira are imported, but of theſe the quantity is not conſiderable.

From 10 to 12 puncheons of rum, bought at Leith, Glaſgow, and Greenock, are imported here, which coſt about L. 600 Sterling. The value for any other ſort of foreign ſpirits is not conſiderable, excepting what is ſmuggled, which is not known.

The quantity of Britiſh ſpirits ſold here is from 4000 to 5000 gallons; at 4 s. *per* gallon, L. 900 Sterling; this includes whiſky, and all ſorts of Britiſh made ſpirits.

From 800 to 900 *kegs* of ſpruce beer are imported from *Dantzick*; alſo a conſiderable quantity of aſhes, honey, ropes, *&c.* ſuppoſed to be L. 1500 Sterling.

From L. 200 to L. 300 Sterling value in clover and flax-ſeed has been annually imported from Rotterdam for ſome years paſt.

Exports.—I have formerly mentioned, that there are about 50 tons of *kelp* made on the ſhores of this pariſh; from 400 to 600 barrels of cod caught here, ſalted, and ſent to the London market; from 20 to 30 tons of dried cod and ling, caught at the *Hebrides*, exported from this place, and generally ſent to *Barcelona*; about 400 barrels caught in the *Highlands*, are annually exported from this harbour. About 50 barrels of ſalted ſalmon caught in the Ugie muſt be included in the exports. About 1000 bolls of potatoes raiſed in the pariſh, and moſtly on the lands adjacent to the town, are ſent each year either to *Norway* or *England*. From 600 to 800 tons of *kerb* and carriage-way ſtones are annually ſent to London, Lynn, and other places, and are generally ſold here at 13 s. *per* ton.

Exports of different Species of Grain the following Years from the Harbour of Peterhead.

	Beans and peaſe.	Bear.	Oats.	Meal.
	Bolls.	Bolls.	Bolls.	Bolls.
From Nov. 25. 1789 to Nov. 25. 1790,	251	1942	320	11,945
From ditto 1790 to ditto 1791,	428	1178	1249	15,552
From ditto 1791 to ditto 1792,	220	893	1424	6524
From ditto 1792 to ditto 1793,	—	1282	339	6598
From ditto 1793 to ditto 1794,	30	572	525	5460
Total for five years, - -	929	5867	3857	46,079
Average of the laſt five years, -	186	1173	771	9216
Average of the value of the above for the laſt five years, peaſe 14 s. bear 16s. oats 12 s. 6 d. and meal 12 s. 6 d.	L. 130	L. 938	L. 482	L. 5760

Total value of grain exported from Peterhead each year, for the laſt five years, - - - - L. 7310 0 0

For two or three years paſt, from 130 to 140 tons of butter are annually ſhipped at the port of Peterhead, which is all made and cured within the ſpace of from 15 to 18 miles in the vicinity of the town of Peterhead. This is now moſtly ſent to the London market; formerly all the butter from this corner was ſent to the different ports in the frith of Forth; part is ſtill ſent thither. For ſome years paſt the butter has ſold from L. 56 to L. 60 Sterling *per* ton; on an average L. 58, 135 tons would be L. 7830 Sterling. From 160 to 180 tons cheeſe are annually ſhipped; they all go to the different ports ſouth from Aberdeen to Berwick, and ſell from L. 17 to L. 20 Sterling *per ton.* On an average, 170 tons, at L. 18, 10s. will be L. 3145 Sterling *. Of late

* The quantity of butter and cheeſe exported is by ſome perſons reckoned high. I have reaſon, however, to think it is accurate, as I have my information from Mr John Sellar, a principal merchant in this town, who is well acquainted with this branch of trade, and aſſures me, he himſelf exports more than one half of what is ſtated in the eſtimate.

late years a good deal of beef and pork has been ſent to the London market, and anſwers very well.

About 60 boxes of eggs, each box containing 150 dozen, and ſuppoſed to be worth at London L. 400 Sterling in all, exported annually from this town.

Manufactures.—There are 52 twiſt mills in the town of Peterhead, employing conſtantly 334 people in doubling, twiſting, and making up threads, and will manufacture 104,000 ſpindles of yarn; this will employ 800 ſpinners, who will *earn* 2 s. 6 d. *per* week each. The greateſt part of theſe threads are bleached, and made from Dutch flax, a conſiderable quantity of the yarns are bought at Banff, Huntly, Keith, *&c.* The threads are ſent to the London market; and when manufactured, will ſell for about L. 20,000 Sterling. Women-ſervants employed in doubling, will earn from 2 s. 6 d. to 4 s. *per* week; men ſervants employed in heckling, twiſting, *&c.* will earn from 5 s. to 8 s. *per* week.

The perſons concerned in this trade are as follow:

J. Arbuthnot, Scott, & Co.	18 mills,	employing	117	ſervants,	& 36,000 ſpind.
J. Burd & Co. -	15 ditto,	ditto	99	ditto,	& 30,000
C. Cummine & Co. -	8 ditto,	ditto	52	ditto,	& 16,000
J. Robb & Co. -	6 ditto,	ditto	39	ditto,	& 13,000
Alex. Johnſton and Son,	4 ditto,	ditto	27	ditto,	& 8000
Alex. Booth, - -	1 ditto,	..			1000
Total,	52		334		104,000 ſpind.

This manufacture is rapidly increaſing, and one company is inſtantly going to add ſix twiſt-mills to thoſe already employed. The cotton-cloth manufacture lately eſtabliſhed by Meſſrs J. Arbuthnot, Grant, and Company, employs 30 weavers. This company ſpins their own cotton upon four jennys; their goods, when manufactured into cheques, napkins, and winſeys, are ſuppoſed to ſell for L. 35,000 Sterling

Sterling annually. The woollen-cloth manufacture carried on by the Meſſrs Arbuthnots, Dalgarno, and Company employs ſix weavers, and one ſpinning jenny for clothing, or big wheel yarn. Their cloth conſiſts of *ſtuffs*, *ſeys*, *ſarges*, *mankies*, *duffles*, and it is thought will ſell for about L. 1800 Sterling *per annum*.

The Meſſrs Kilgours at Kinmundie, in the pariſh of Longſide, employ in this town and pariſh 16 women ſpinners, and 6 weavers, whoſe work will amount, when manufactured, to L. 600 Sterling each year.

They bring their wool from *Northumberland*, and chiefly fleece-wool. All the ſervants employed in the above manufactures are ſuppoſed to be conſtantly employed; but as many of them have families, and others work to private cuſtomers, there is at leaſt one-third more engaged in the different branches of manufacture than ſtated in the above account.

Meſſrs, Gordon, Baron, and Company at Aberdeen, employ in the town and pariſh of Peterhead, in the cotton-manufacture, 30 weavers, who, with hands neceſſary for filling their pirns, will gain annually L. 715 Sterling. The value of this cloth when manufactured will amount to L. 4300 Sterling.

The tin-plate manufacture, juſt in its infancy, carried on by one hand, amounts to about L. 100 Sterling.

The amount of the nail-manufacture, which at preſent only employs about eight hands, is L. 400 Sterling.

The ſalt-manufacture, which only commenced about twelve months ago, with one pan, makes, in the courſe of a year, 4000 buſhels of ſalt, which, at 4 s. *per* buſhel, amounts to L. 800 Sterling.

The work finiſhed by two ſhip-builders, and two boat-carpenters, who employ a conſiderable number of hands, in

the courſe of a year, it is ſuppoſed will amount to L. 1200 Sterling.

It is but fair to mention, that ſeveral gentlemen in this town have connexions in trade, that cannot be ſaid to belong properly to this place, particularly Meſſrs James and Thomas Arbuthnots, who are concerned in the manufacture of kelp, and in the ſalmon-fiſhing, to a very large extent in different parts of the kingdom *, and are likewiſe concerned as ſhip-owners; and the Meſſrs Huchinſons, and other merchants, who employ a number of ſhips, their own property, of great value, in carrying goods to merchants in different places, ſome at a very remote diſtance; beſides ſome others, that have conſiderable tranſactions, that cannot properly

* The Meſſrs Arbuthnots were early promoters of the fiſhings and manufactures in this place, and are ſtill connected with them; they are likewiſe tackſmen of the ſalmon-fiſhing on Ugie. The Meſſrs Hutchinſons are likewiſe connected with the fiſhings, and other branches of trade belonging to this town. It is to be regretted that the fiſhings have not been extended farther. The lobſter-fiſhing, from Peterhead to the Pentland frith, is an object of conſiderable importance, and has been in the hands of Engliſh merchants for theſe laſt 30 years. The fiſhers in the town of Peterhead are ſo well acquainted with the method of taking them, that many of them are employed in different parts of the Moray frith by agents ſettled in Peterhead by different companies in England. There are vaſt varieties of flat fiſh on this coaſt, or at no great diſtance from this place, which might be caught with a trail net, which has never been attempted. Herrings are frequently on the coaſt, but a boat or ſhip never was ſent in ſearch of them. The Dutch catch them every ſummer, as well as cod. Ships paſs every week from the Pentland frith with live cod, and flat fiſh, for the London market. Great quantities of large ling and cod might be caught here, and dried on the rocks, beſides what are taken by the fiſhers of Boddom in boats.

There is ſtill room for improvements in the manner of catching fiſh. In the Mediterranean, fiſh are caught in nets with flambeaux in the night time. In the rivers in Scotland it has long been a practice to kill ſalmon and trouts with lighted torches in the darkneſs of the night. It has often been ſuggeſted to make trial of this method with ſalmon at ſea, but it has never been attempted.

properly be placed to the trade of this place, particularly one of the name of Findlater, who deals very extenſively, both in the foreign and domeſtic trade; two years ago travelled from Peterſburgh to Moſcow, and this year intends being at *Conſtantinople.*

Fairs.—In the town there is a weekly market on Friday; and two annual fairs, one in the month of May, and the other in November.

Taverns.—There are 30 taverns in the pariſh, all in the town, excepting two in the country part of the pariſh, and theſe are in the ſea-town of Boddom.

Shops.—There are about 35 ſhops in the town; of theſe, there are 20 dealers in tea, and 18 dealers in ſpirits.

Fleſh-market.—Prior to 1792, in the fleſh-market 250 oxen and cows were killed each year, 600 ſheep, and 60 ſwine, beſides calves, which were numerous. For theſe laſt two years there is above one-fourth of an increaſe in theſe different articles; but the preciſe number of each cannot be aſcertained.

Exciſe and Cuſtoms.—The duties for exciſe for ale and malt laſt year were L. 273 Sterling. Duties on licenſes for ſpirits, teas, tobacco, wine, *&c.* were L. 176 Sterling. From the 5th of January 1792 to the 5th of January 1793, the amount of the duties on cuſtoms paid for goods imported from foreign parts was L. 557 : 5 : 9 Sterling.

Poſt-office.—There is a poſt-office here, which remitted to the General Poſt-office laſt year of poſtages, free of all expences, L. 280 Sterling; 6 years ago L. 119, and 12 years

years ago L. 60 Sterling. There are at present 6 posts; in a few days there will be 7 posts, or runners, every week.

Bank Agents.—There are two agents in this town for the two banks at Aberdeen; and besides what transactions may be made for other banks, it is supposed these two agents do business, in the course of one year, to the extent at least of L. 120,000 Sterling; and I am glad to find the credit of this place is much respected, not only from its opulence, but the fairness of the transactions of the inhabitants. A *bankruptcy* is a very rare occurrence in this town; and when it does happen, the loss sustained by creditors is not very considerable.

Charity Funds in Peterhead.

Merchants box, annual collections of the members, and interest of money,					L. 90	0 0
Free-mason's box of Keith Lodge, from the company resorting to the well, at an average,		L. 40	0	0		
Rent of billiard-table,		10	0	0		
Yearly contribution from 90 members, 1 s. each,		4	10	0		
		L. 54	10	0		
Take off interest payable,		L. 4	10	0		
					50	0 0
Gardener's society, house-rents,		L. 27	0	0		
Yearly contributions of 144 members, 2 s. each,		14	8	0		
		L. 41	8	0		
Take off interest payable,		5	8	0		
					36	0 0
Carried forward,					L. 170	0 0

Brought forward, -			L.	170	0	0
Trades ſociety, houſe-rents,	L. 31	7	0			
Yearly contributions of 105 members, 2 s. each, -	10	10	0			
	L. 41	17	0			
Take off an annuity of one life,	14	0	0			
				27	17	0
Weaver's ſociety, houſe-rents,	L. 23	0	0			
Annual contributions of 108 members, 1 s. 6 d. each, -	8	2	0			
	L. 31	2	0			
Take off intereſt payable,	11	2	0			
				20	0	0
Pilots ſociety, houſe-rents, and annual contributions, *&c.* above - -				20	0	0
St Andrew's ſociety, commenced by a few young gentlemen in the town, intereſt of money, - -	L. 0	18	0			
Annual contributions of members,	3	2	0			
				4	0	0
Union ſociety, annual contributions of 6 d. each month of 200 members, - -				60	0	0
Sailor's ſociety, houſe-rents, annual collections of the members, *&c.* make a revenue of				37	0	0
Total, -			L.	344	17	0

N. B. The farmer ſociety is not reckoned in the above account, though a great many of the members belong to the town and pariſh; their yearly income may be about L. 21 Sterling.

Price of Proviſions.—Proviſions are much increaſed in their price. An ox, that could have been purchaſed 30 years

years ago at L. 2, now coſts from L. 5 to L. 6 Sterling; eggs were at 1 d. each dozen, they are now from 4 d. to 5 d. ſometimes 6 d. and frequently difficult to be purchaſed at any price, from the briſk demand for the London market. Forty years ago, from the 1ſt of December to the middle of March, no freſh beef was to be found, and there was no regular market. At that time beef was ſold from 10 d. to 1 s. 2 d. Scotch *per* lb.; beef now coſts from 3 d. to 4½ d. Sterling each lb. Thirty years ago, veal was never fed; and when expoſed to ſale, was purchaſed at 6 d. each quarter; it is now excellently fed, and ſells from 3 d. to 5 d. each lb.; lamb at the ſame price, ſometimes 6 d. From 1760 to 1763 mutton was ſold by the quarter; a butcher then began to ſell it by weight at 1½ d. *per* lb. The inhabitants were much diſpleaſed at him for this innovation, and raiſing the price. Mutton now ſells from 2½ d. to 3 d. and ſometimes 4 d. each lb. In 1753, butter ſold at 2½ d. each lb.; it now ſells from 6 d. to 8 d. Hens 30 years ago were ſold from 4 d. to 5 d. each; they now ſell from 8 d. to 10 d.: chickens were 1 d.; they are now from 2 d. to 3 d. each. Haddocks were 1 d. each dozen, and ſometimes only that price each ſcore; they frequently now coſt 1 d. each, and if large, a higher price. Lobſters were frequently purchaſed formerly for 1 d. each; they are now from 2 d. to 4 d. Sucking pigs, 20 or 30 years ago, were only 6 d.; now they are from 3 s. to 5 s. Sterling each.

Number of Tradeſmen.—Number of tradeſmen in the pariſh, the greateſt part of whom are in the town:

Weavers, 40 of whom work with the fly-ſhuttle, only introduced here 2½ years ago, - -	132
Shoemakers, - - -	57

Coopers

Coopers in the town, who, beſides ordinary work for the inhabitants, make annually 100 ſalmon-barrels, 2000 barrels for cod and herring, 1000 ſalmon-kits, and 100 barrels for beef and pork, - - 14
Tailors, - - - - 36
Maſons, - - - - 48
Houſe-carpenters, ſhip and boat-carpenters, and wheel-wrights, - - - 110
Turners, - - - - 3
Bakers, (30 years ago only two ſuperannuated), 14
Blackſmiths, - - - 16
Nailers, - - - 8
Tinſmith, - - - 1
Watchmakers, - - - 3
Hecklers, - - - - 20
Dyers, - - - 5
Slaters, - - - - 5
Barbers, - - - - 7
Plaſterers, - - - - 5
Fleſhers, - - - - 8
Wool combers, - - - 6
Houſe-painter, - - - - 1
Saddler, - - - 1
Gardeners, - - - - 5

There is only one gardener who manages his own garden, the reſt are employed in dreſſing the gardens in Peterhead, or as day-labourers, excepting one, who confines his attention to a ſmall farm.

There never was a bookſeller, bookbinder, or ſtationer in this town, that deſerves to be mentioned; there is one going to ſettle very ſoon, and to carry on all theſe different branches; I ſincerely wiſh he may meet with encouragement.

Review

Review of Population.—Though the population of the pariſh has already been mentioned, it may not be improper to ſtate the population of the town of Peterhead, and the value of property at different periods.

In 1593, there were only 14 feus, allowing to each family 4, this makes the number of inhabitants at that time 56. From an anonymous manuſcript, I find in 1727 there was ſuppoſed to be in the town about 230 families, which, ſuppoſing it to be accurate, would make the inhabitants to be at that time about 900. In 1764, they were 1266; in 1769, they were 1518; in 1790, they were 2550; and at preſent they are ſuppoſed to be about 3000. Dr Laing eſtimates them in 1764 at 1500; but this is a miſtake, as that year I viſited every family in my pariſh, and I am confident no liſt was taken that year, or in 1769, excepting by myſelf. The liſt in 1790 was taken by the managers of the town, at which I was not preſent: of the accuracy of it, however, I have no doubt. From this ſtatement it will appear how rapidly this town has increaſed in population theſe laſt 30 years. In a few years, probably leſs than 40 years from the time I took the firſt liſt, I make no doubt the number of inhabitants will be trebled.

Value of Feus at different Periods.—The value of the feus and property in the town has increaſed very much; in 1593, from conſidering the charter, each acre appears to have coſt about L. 50 Sterling. Since the Governors of the Merchant Maiden Hoſpital became proprietors, they have feued off land at the rate of 16 s. *per* fall, and 1 d. of feu-duty for every foot of front, or at L. 128 Sterling *per* acre. Now they have reſolved to ſell none under L. 1, 10 s. *per* fall, or at the rate of L. 240 *per* acre; with 1 d. for every foot of front as feu-duty. There are many inſtances, however, of much higher prices being paid in Peterhead;

terhead; lately 3-4ths of an acre were purchaſed for L. 90, and in two years afterwards were ſold for L. 200 Sterling. A ſite for a houſe, conſiſting only of five falls and five ells, ſold for L. 37 Sterling a few months ago; that is, nearly at the rate of L. 1150 *per* acre. About 20 years ago, the Governors aſked L. 150 for one acre; a gentleman only offered L. 145; on this acre houſes to a great value are now erected; but were there no houſes, it would probably fetch eight times the money that was formerly aſked for it. Another acre, about 30 years ago, was purchaſed for L. 120, one fourth part of which would at preſent fetch from L. 400 to L. 500 Sterling. There are ſome particular ſituations, where L. 100 would be obtained for a ſite for a houſe, with very little back ground.

Within theſe few years more houſes have been built than at any former period in the ſame ſpace of time; lately four new ſtreets were opened, on which a number of houſes are already built, and feus daily giving off. Within theſe laſt two years, in the courſe of 12 months, I am informed L. 4000 Sterling have been expended on building houſes.

Character.—The inhabitants are in general very attentive, very induſtrious, ſober, diſcreet, and humane. They are very regular in their attendance on public worſhip, and theſe good qualities may in general be applied to the whole of the pariſh.

Style of Living.—The ſtyle of living is much changed of late; but the inhabitants, for the moſt part, are economical, and live within their income. Luxuries of life are now more frequent than formerly, both in dreſs and entertainments; but, on the whole, there is leſs of diſſipation, extravagance, and drunkenneſs, than in any town of the ſame ſize and opulence with which I am acquainted.

Among the lower claſſes dram and tea drinking is too frequent, and the too general ſubſtitution of ſpirits in place of malt liquor has a pernicious influence on their health and morals.

When I was ſettled in 1763, there was no poſt-chaiſe; there are at preſent two in the town, which are ſufficient in winter, but in ſummer they cannot ſupply the demand for chaiſes from the inhabitants and company who reſort hither. Thirty years ago, as far as I can recollect, there was no clothier's ſhop; the inhabitants in general were ſatisfied with cloth manufactured at home, or goods retailed here from Glaſgow, or commiſſioning cloth from Aberdeen. There are at preſent three clothiers ſhops, who have all kinds of cloth from the different manufacturing towns in England, beſides ſuch goods as are made at Paiſley and Glaſgow. There are two ſhops who ſell only goods from theſe two manufacturing towns; frequently different people find it their intereſt to bring goods from theſe places, and reſide in this town till they are ſold.

Hints of Improvement.—In a word, the town of Peterhead is in a very thriving ſtate, and would be much more improved if there was a *firm and ſteady police*, ſome nuiſances removed, greater exertions made to improve the harbour, ſoft ſpring-water brought into the town, which might be found at no great diſtance, the ſtreets better paved, and illuminated with lamps in winter; it would likewiſe contribute much to the ornament of the town, if ſome regular plan could be adopted as to the ſize of the houſes in the new ſtreets that are lately opened.—There is no greater defect than the want of a proper ſchoolmiſtreſs of education, manners, and character, to teach the young girls ſuch branches of education as are only to be found in larger towns at a very high expence.

I ſhall only add, that if more liberal ideas were entertained of the education of children, it would make a favourable alteration on the manners and ſentiments of the inhabitants, and gradually introduce a more general deſire for the improvement of the mind and the heart.

Abſtract of Imports, Exports, and Manufactures of Peterhead each Year.

IMPORTS.

Foreign wood, at an average of five years,	L. 1252	0	0
Ditto, from Spey and coaſtways, -	876	0	0
Coals and cinders, - -	1036	0	0
Lime, - -	506	0	0
Flax, - -	2774	0	0
Yarn from Huntly, Keith, &c. 30,000 ſpindles, - -	3900	0	0
Iron, - -	600	0	0
Bales from Mancheſter, Leeds, Glaſgow, &c.	6000	0	0
Groceries from London, Leith, &c.	12,000	0	0
Wines, - -	1100	0	0
Rum and foreign ſpirits, -	600	0	0
Britiſh ſpirits, - -	900	0	0
Sundries from Dantzick, -	1500	0	0
Clover and flax-ſeed from Holland, -	300	0	0
Tiles, ſlates, and bricks, -	600	0	0
Total imports, - -	L. 33,944	0	0

EXPORTS.

Kelp, 50 tons, at L. 5 *per* ton, -	L. 250	0	0
Barrels of cod, 500, at L. 1, 10 s. *per* barrel,	750	0	0
Dried cod, 25 tons, at L. 28 *per* ton, -	700	0	0
Barrels of herring, 400, at L. 1, 3 s. *per* barrel,	460	0	0
Salted ſalmon, 50 barrels, at L. 3, 5 s. *per* do.	162	0	0
1000 bolls of potatoes, at 8 s. *per* boll,	400	0	0
Kirb and carriage-way ſtones, 700 tons, 13 s. *per* ton, - -	455	0	0
Exports of grain, - -	7310	0	0
Butter, 135 tons, at L. 58 *per* ton, -	7830	0	0
Cheeſe, 170 tons, at L. 18 *per* ton, -	3145	0	0
Eggs, - -	400	0	0
Threads manufactured here, -	20,000	0	0
Cotton-cloth manufacture, -	3500	0	0
Woollen-cloth ditto, - -	1800	0	0
Meſſrs Kilgour, ditto, - -	600	0	0
Meſſrs Gordon, Baron, and Company, for work in Peterhead, - -	715	0	0
Nail manufacture, - -	400	0	0
Tinplate ditto, - -	100	0	0
Salt manufactory, 4000 buſhels, 4 s. *per* buſhel, - -	800	0	0
Ship and boat-building, -	1200	0	0
Oil, whalebone, ſeal-ſkins, *&c.* from the whale-ſhip, - -	1100	0	0
Hides and tallow, exported to Leith and Aberdeen, - -	300	0	0
Beef exported from September 1794 to January 1795, - -	750	0	0
Pork exported from ditto to ditto, -	342	0	0
Carried forward,	L. 53,469	0	0

Brought forward,	L. 53,469	0	0
Salmon and cod barrels, and ſalmon-kits, (beſides ſupplying theſe articles to the trade in Peterhead), which are exported,	349	0	0
For lobſters exported to London, -	50	0	0
Shoes, turnery goods, and ropes from the ropery, exported, - -	300	0	0
Beef, ale, and bread, to ſtranger ſhips, -	500	0	0
Increaſe on the thread-manufactures in 1795,	2000	0	0
Total exports, - -	L. 56,668	0	0
Total imports, - -	33,944	0	0
Total imports and exports, -	L. 90,612	0	0
Balance in favour of the town, -	L. 22,724	0	0

N. B. Fractions in the above abſtract are omitted.

From the above abſtract it appears, that the trade of this town is above L. 90,000. If I had ſtated the money ſuppoſed to be left by the company who attend the mineral well, and the amount of the trade carried on by merchants reſiding in the town, but which cannot properly be ſaid to belong to this port, by which I do not mean any illicit trade, I have no doubt the trade of the town of Peterhead would be found to exceed L. 100,000 Sterling each year.

P. S. Upon reviſing this abſtract ſeveral weeks after it was finiſhed, I am ſenſible ſome deductions will be made, as the Meſſrs Kilgours do not reſide in this town, and part of the victual, butter, and cheeſe are exported by merchants, who have their reſidence elſewhere; but having likewiſe diſcovered, that no mention is made of cart-wheels,

wheels, leather, and dye-ſtuffs imported here, nor any value ſet upon the carts, cart-wheels, ploughs, labouring utenſils, and houſehold-furniture, ſent to the country, which is very conſiderable, and that no ſtatement is made of the freights drawn for ſhips employed in trade not connected with this port, I am very confident I have no reaſon to make the amount of the trade leſs than I have repreſented it; and if I were to make any alterations, it would be only to ſhow, that the trade probably is conſiderably above L. 100,000.

NUM-

NUMBER XXIX.

PARISH OF LONMAY,

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF ABERDEEN, AND PRESBYTERY OF DEER).

From Materials collected by Mr JOHN LUNDIE, *Miniſter of Lonmay.*

Name, Situation, and Extent.

THIS pariſh at different times has been named St Colm, from the name of the ſaint to whom the old church was dedicated, and Longmay, Longmey, and Lonmay, from the name of the eſtate on which the church now ſtands.

It is ſituated in the preſbytery of Deer, and in the Synod and county of Aberdeen. Its length is 10 Engliſh miles; its greateſt breadth ſcarcely four miles. It is bounded on the S. E. by Crimond; on the S. by Longſide and Old Deer; on the S. W. by Brechin; on the W. and N. E. by Rathen; and on the E. by the German Ocean.

Soil

Soil and Climate.—The ſoil of the pariſh is various. The air, eſpecially on the coaſt, is rather moiſt, but not unhealthy.

Mineral Springs.—There are many mineral ſprings in the pariſh, but they have never been analyzed; and from the celebrity of the mineral well of Peterhead, at 12 miles diſtance, they are little uſed.

Lake.—There is only one lake, lying on the boundary betwixt the pariſhes of Lonmay and Crimond. It is now called the *loch* of Strathbeg. It was formerly a ſmall rivulet, called indifferently the burn of Strathbeg, and water of Rattray. Buchanan calls it *Ratra amnis.* By a ſtorm the mouth of it was ſhut up, and ſucceſſive banks of ſand have been thrown up by the ſea, and the rivulet has, in the courſe of a little more than a century, become a lake of 550 Scotch, or 700 Engliſh acres. For ſeveral years paſt it has not increaſed in magnitude; the evaporation from the ſurface being equal to the quantity of water emptied into the lake. Were a perſon to meaſure with tolerable accuracy the quantity of water which runs into this lake, it would poſſibly afford *data* for proving, that the evaporation from the Caſpian Sea is ſufficient to counterbalance all the water poured in from the rivers which empty themſelves into it. An attempt has been lately made to drain the lake of Strathbeg; but the perſon who made the attempt failed in his circumſtances, which has ſuſpended the work. It is ſaid, however, that he is ſoon to reſume it. His reward is a long leaſe of the grounds covered by the lake. The fiſhes contained in this lake are, red and white trout, eels, flounders, and large freſh water muſcles, commonly called pearl muſcles. No pearls,

however, have been found in the muſcles taken out of this lake.

The ſoil in the bottom of this lake is not deep, but is ſeemingly of a marly nature, owing, perhaps, to muſcle-ſhells decayed.

Rivers, &c.—No navigable rivers run through the pariſh, but a conſiderable ſtream, one of the branches of the Ugie, runs by the north and ſouth-eaſt boundaries. A canal could be carried along both branches of the Ugie at no great expence, and with the moſt beneficial conſequences to the agriculture and commerce of Buchan.

This pariſh has above four miles of coaſt, and the ſhore is flat and ſandy. The ſpecies of fiſh caught on this coaſt are turbot, holibut, plaice, ſkate, ling, cod, ſand-eel, haddock, whiting, cole-fiſh, flounders, ſoles, and mackaral. Sometimes, but rarely, ſea-bream, wraſſe, and dorce. Herring alſo are found, but there are no herring-nets. One trial was made of fiſhing for ſalmon, and was tolerably ſucceſsful.

Sea-wreck of ſeveral kinds is found on the coaſt; and kelp is made, but in ſmall quantities.

There are two fiſhing-towns belonging to Mr Gordon of Buthlaw. One of theſe was lately built, and conſiſts of 20 tiled houſes, placed in two parallel rows, with a ſtreet in the middle.

Moſſes.—There are ſeveral extenſive moſſes in this pariſh. A large one belongs to Mr Milne of Crimond-mogate, another to Mr Cumming of Kinithmont. The other heritors, Mr Duff of Logie, ſon of the late Admiral Duff, Mr Biſſet of Rathon, and Mr Fraſer of Park, have alſo moſſes, which abound in the whole diſtrict of Buchan.

Minerals.—No marble, freeſtone, or ſlate, and not much moorſtone, are found in this pariſh. But a blue ſtone has been quarried on the eſtate of Cairneſs, belonging to Mr Gordon of Buthlaw. This, contrary to the nature of the blue ſtone commonly found in Aberdeenſhire, cuts as well as granite, and makes beautiful aſhler work. Of this ſtone, Mr Gordon has lately built an elegant modern houſe, on a plan given by Mr Playfair.

No coal mines are found in this pariſh; but limeſtone is found in great quantities on the eſtate of Craigellie, about 2 Engliſh miles from the church, and is much uſed for manure.

Quadrupeds.—The quadrupeds found in this pariſh, beſides horſes, ſheep, hogs, black cattle, dogs, and cats, are moles in great numbers, foxes ſeen ſometimes, otters in the lake of Strathbeg, obſerved but ſeldom, polecats, weaſels, common and ſhrew-mice, hares, rats, and water-rats.

Birds.—The birds and wild fowls are of various kinds; jack-daws, magpies, the cuckoo, ſwans, and wild-geeſe, (in Strathbeg after harveſt, and till the ſpring), barnacles ſhot on the coaſt, duck in Strathbeg at all ſeaſons, teals on the coaſt, ſoland-geeſe paſſing in ſight of land, common gull, and great black and white gull, tarrock, heron, curlieu, woodcock, ſnipe, jack-ſnipe, lapwing, (not ſo numerous as formerly), ſand-pipers, green plover, coots, land-rail, grous in the moſſes, partridges, quails, ſky-lark, ſtarlings, field-fare, generally appearing before ſnow, thruſh, blackbird, chatterers, croſſbill, ſeen but rarely, greenfinches, gold-finches, chaffinches, yellow hammers, red ſparrows, hedge ſparrows, redbreaſts, water-wagtails, ſwifts, ſwallows, and white-ears.

Population.

Population.—The return to Dr Webſter in 1755 was 1674 ſouls. The number of inhabitants of all ages at preſent is about 1650. Of which, 311 are Scotch Epiſcopals, and 17 are Seceders. If we may judge from the ſituation of the church of St Colm, (of which part of the weſt glebe ſtill remains, and which ſtood on the north-eaſt part of the pariſh, 10 miles from the ſouth by weſt extremity), population has formerly been very thin in this pariſh, except on the ſea-coaſt.

Agriculture.—The agriculture of this diſtrict, though certainly improved of late years by the introduction of lime and green crops, has not advanced ſo much as might have been expected. One great error of the Buchan farmers, which is apt to ſtrike even a ſtranger riding through the country, is the ploughing too ſeldom. In deep clay ſoils, where, in the county of Angus, three ploughings are always uſed, beans are frequently ſown broadcaſt after one ploughing, and bear after beans in the ſame manner. Yet a very good crop of drilled beans is to be ſeen this year (1795) upon a farm in the perſonal poſſeſſion of one of the heritors. It is alſo to be remarked, that a rotation of crops is not yet eſtabliſhed in this diſtrict. While the heritor only ploughs where he cannot get graſs to grow any longer, the tenant ſometimes ploughs as long as corn of any kind will grow. A regular rotation of crops, adapted to the different ſoils, is too little attended to in this diſtrict; and now that lime is very generally uſed, the lands may ſuffer from injudicious cropping.

Rent of the Pariſh.—The rent of this pariſh is about 2000 guineas; and may be ſuppoſed to increaſe with the improvements in agriculture.

Eccleſiaſtical

Eccleſiaſtical State.—The miniſter's ſtipend is 9 chalders of victual, and 600 merks Scots, or L. 33 : 6 : 8 Sterling in money. Mr Gordon of Buthlaw is patron. The church was built in 1787. The old church had ſtood ſince 1608, at which period the pariſh-church was removed from St Colm to Lonmay.

NUM-

NUMBER XXX.

PARISH OF PREMNAY,

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF ABERDEEN, PRESBYTERY OF GARIOCH.)

By a Friend to Statiſtical Inquiries.

Origin of the Name, &c.

PREMNAY is ſituated in the county and Synod of Aberdeen, and in the diſtrict and preſbytery of Garioch. Its name is derived from the Gaelic. It is bounded on the S. by the mountain of Bennochie, which ſeparates it from the pariſh of Keig; on the W. by the pariſh of Leſlie; on the N. by Kinnethmont and Inſch; and on the E. by the pariſh of Oyne.

Extent.—Premnay, excluſive of the uncultivated and uninhabited part of it on Bennochie, is a long ſtripe of land, lying along the water of Gady, (which runs through it), and is about four miles long by one and an half miles broad. It contains nearly 3000 acres, (excluſive of the mountain of Bennochie), about 2000 of which has been made arable, and

nearly 1000 of it limed, incloſed, and planted with hedge-rows on one eſtate.

Soil.—The ſoil is various. On the banks of the Gady, in general, it is very rich; on the ſide of the mountain of Bennochie it is much poorer. In ſeveral places a ſtrong clay; and on ſome ſmall knolls or hills on the north ſide of Gady, a ſandy loam, which in ſome places is ſhallow, and eaſily hurt in dry ſeaſons, but is in general both early and fertile.

Mountain.—The mountain of Bennochie is one of the largeſt in the county of Aberdeen. It is nearly 1000 feet above the level of the ſea, and about 750 feet above the level of the water of Gady, oppoſite to the church of Premnay, and its baſe may cover an area of about 4000 acres, the greateſt part of which is unarable. The name Bennochie is ſaid to ſignify, *Hill with the paps*, from its having ſeveral tops. It is a royal foreſt, though no trees are now raiſed, excepting a few on the ſkirts of the mountain. It appears from the *Laurus Leſlæana*, that it was formerly fortified; and the remains of a ſtone wall are ſtill ſtanding near its higheſt top. It ſupplies the inhabitants of the neighbouring pariſhes with peats for fuel; but in rainy ſeaſons it is very difficult of acceſs. It contains ſtones of very fine granite, which are much eſteemed, and carried ſeveral miles.

River.—The ſmall rivulet Gady, produces very good trout, but no ſalmon. It is uſeful in turning different corn-mills in this and the neighbouring pariſhes.

Manure.—The only manure, except the dung raiſed on the farms, is lime brought from Aberdeen, a diſtance of

24 miles. But if the projected canal were carried to Inſch, it would be eaſily within the reach of the farmers of this pariſh.

Agriculture.—About 24 years ago the greateſt part of this pariſh was unincloſed and unimproved. But at that period, Mr Gordon, late proprietor of the principal eſtate, began to improve his lands on a great ſcale. Carts from Aberdeen, loaded with lime, were hired to Inverury, a diſtance of 14 miles, and Mr Gordon's own horſes and oxen went to Inverury, and brought the lime from that town to Premnay. The fields were incloſed and planted with hedge-rows, and in general were thoroughly limed. Proper farm-houſes, and other neceſſary buildings were erected; and the lands, after being ſeveral years in the proprietor's own hands, were let to different farmers. The eſtate has ſince been ſold at 60 years purchaſe of the old rent, before the improvements commenced. Yet the expence of improving the lands at ſuch a diſtance from a ſea-port, has hurt the fortune of the intelligent and public ſpirited gentleman who improved them. It may here be remarked, that it is more prudent for a landed gentleman to improve one farm, and then let it, and afterwards to improve the other farms in ſucceſſion, than to attempt improving the whole at once. Labourers cannot eaſily be had; the price of labour is ſuddenly raiſed; the difficulty of hoeing large quantities of turnips, of cutting down and ſtacking large quantities of hay, and of harveſting large quantities of grain in rainy, or in late ſeaſons, becomes very great, eſpecially where many of the labourers muſt travel two or three miles to and from their work; and a gentleman improves at a greater expence than what is incurred by a common farmer, who is his own overſeer.

Beſides,

Beſides, as the market price of every commodity is regulated by the proportion between thoſe who buy and thoſe who ſell, when his improvements are finiſhed, a gentleman, who has *his whole eſtate in the market at once*, cannot expect the ſame rent for it, as if he let every other year a newly improved farm to a practical farmer. Perhaps the moſt advantageous way in which an eſtate can be improved, is to give the farmer encouragement, and even aſſiſtance to improve it: For example, if the neceſſary quantity of lime cannot be afforded by the farmer, the proprietor may give as much lime as is wanted, and aſk for his payment a gradual increaſe of rent. The writer of this article knew a gentleman who raiſed his rents from 15 s. to L. 2 an acre in this manner. He gave his farmers 50 bolls of lime to each acre. This coſt him at that time about L. 5, 5 s. In three years the additional riſe of rent indemnified him; and yet his farmers paid their rents regularly; and one of them received L. 11 from his landlord, or the rent of 5½ acres, for two acres of ſown graſs. The only difficulty here is to find tenants in whom one can confide.

Population.—The population of this pariſh has fluctuated very much. In Dr Webſter's account it was 448. About 14 years ago it was as low as 260, after the old farmers were removed. Three years ago it was 471 examinable perſons, or about 550 of all ages; and at preſent it is only about 450.

Manufactures.—Small quantities of lint are raiſed for private families; but the knitting of ſtockings is the only manufacture of any conſequence.

Proprietors,

Proprietors, &c.—Of theſe there are four, but none of them at preſent reſide in the pariſh. The rent of the pariſh amounts nearly to L. 1000.

Eccleſiaſtical State.—Mr James Douglas is the preſent miniſter. His ſtipend, by a late decreet, is worth L. 100 Sterling. Colonel Hay of Rannes is patron. The church was lately rebuilt, and the manſe repaired and enlarged.

Character of the People, and Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—They are in general ſober, honeſt, and induſtrious. Where an eſtate is newly peopled, the farmers cannot be ſuppoſed to be ſo much attached to the ſoil, or to the proprietor, as where they have reſided on the lands from their infancy. And it ſometimes happens, that a ſtranger will take an improved farm, with a deſign to ſcourge it. This cannot be juſtified by the laws of morality. On the other hand, an indulgent landlord is reſpected by his old tenants; and whenever the rents of an eſtate are raiſed beyond a certain ſum, the proprietor ſeldom gains ſo much in point of *real intereſt*, as he loſes in point of reſpectability of character. In the diſtrict of Garioch, nominal rents have produced bad payments and diſpirited farmers. A little farther advancement in the knowlege of farming, and a little more indulgence from the proprietor, will, it is hoped, ſoon produce in a country naturally fertile, rents that are regularly paid, and farmers who are enterpriſing and independent.

APPENDIX to the STATISTICAL ACCOUNT of the Pariſh of INVERESK.

BY deſire of the patron of the pariſh, a meeting of heritors was held in November 1794, to conſult about repairing or rebuilding the church, when an enquiry was directed to be made reſpecting the number of perſons, who could be accommodated with ſeats in the preſent church, and the number who might be expected to require ſeats, if there was a church built of ſufficient dimenſions. The reſult was as follows:

Total number of ſouls in the pariſh, -		5392
Burgher Seceders, - -	559	
Church of Reliefers, - -	516	
Epiſcopals, - - -	74	
Anabaptiſts, - -	17	
Papiſts, - - -	3	
Total number of ſectaries, -	——	1169
There remains of the Eſtabliſhed Church, -		4223
To be deduced for children under age,	600	
Ditto for aged perſons, ſervants, &c.	600	
	——	1200
There remains of perſons to go to church, -		3023
From which ſubtract the number the church holds,		1136
There remain unprovided for, - -		1887

The heritors having met after this enquiry was made and reported to them, Reſolved, after having conſidered it, That as neither the walls nor roof of the preſent church are ruinous or inſufficient, that there appears no neceſſity for pulling the church down at this time, and rebuilding it. This reſolution was made, though it was underſtood that the town of Muſſelburgh was willing to be at two-thirds of the expence in rebuilding the church.

N. B. It is proper to obſerve, in juſtice to this populous pariſh, that however wavering many of them may have been in their political opinions during the years 1792 and 1793, it is certain, that no more than 30 joined thoſe dangerous ſocieties, who ſtyled themſelves Friends of the People.

It is neceſſary to add, that there is a miſtake in the Statiſtical Account, which ſtates the revenue of the town of Muſſelburgh at L. 1500, as it does not amount now to more than L. 1200, having been reduced by the fall of the rent of their mills.

END OF VOLUME SIXTEENTH.

